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POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

No. 1222



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NATIONAL

SOCIOLOGISTS CRITICIZE SHORTCOMINGS OF 'ZNANIYE' LECTURES

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 12, 13 Nov 81

[Two-part article by N. Mekhontsev and N. Mikhaylov: "The Reputation of the Public Lecture"; "The Lecture and the Audience"]

[12 Nov 81 p 2]

"[Text] More than 70,000 lectures are given in our country every day. What pressing problems of lecture propaganda are found in such vast activity? This is the subject of discussion by N. Mekhontsev and N. Mikhaylov in this column today. Their statements and assessments are based on sociological studies made in Chelyabinskaya Oblast in 1970 and 1980. About 10,000 workers and employees expressed their opinions about the lectures.

What Do the Statistics Fail To Show?

The lecture had been announced in the rayon newspaper and on local radio. It was attended, in a hall of the Palace of Culture figured for 800 persons, by 15 persons. "Who needs a lecture?" the director of the palace sighed. "Every family today subscribes to three newspapers. Everyone has radio and television. You cannot get any attention with a lecture."

In our matched studies 10 years apart we were primarily interested in the question: how has people's attitude toward lectures changed? And how correct is the view that "you cannot get any attention with lectures today" and that the reputation and popularity of public lectures is gradually declining?

The official statistical reports used by workers of the "Znaniye" society, by contrast, appear optimistic: more lectures are being given, and the number in attendance is steadily growing. Just compare the figures. In 1970 213,000 public political lectures were given in Chelyabinskaya Oblast, while in 1980 more than 354,000 were given; in 1970 11 million persons attended them, but in 1980 it was 17 million.

But are these figures sufficient to judge the actual popularity of the lectures and the real growth of their reputation in the eyes of the audience, No, they

are not. For example, let us take the indicator of the number of persons attending lectures during a year. In reality, it records not the number of people, but the number of arrivals at lectures. That is, the same person attending 10 lectures in a year is counted 10 times and the report shows that 10 people attended lectures. But in fact there was one. You will agree that the picture is distorted. The large total audience figure may represent a fairly small group of curious listeners who attend lectures regularly. What about the rest?

The number of lectures given is another very arbitrary indicator. No matter how much we talk today about quality, scientific level, and the effectiveness of lecture propaganda, to be frank the number of lectures given is still the main criterion to evaluate the work of organizations of the "Znaniye" society. Higher-ranking bodies consider a decline in this indicator as undesirable, and in fact intolerable, and if it occurs there will immediately be a menacing question: how could it be that you gave fewer lectures, on atheism for example, than last year? This is terrible! There must be more. How many more? Nobody knows that.

What is the answer? There is just one answer, to make a careful and universal study of the needs and interests of the audience and construct lecture propaganda so that it meets their real needs and interests. Should it just meet them? No, that is not all. Imagine a listener who is avidly interested only in lectures on sexology and brushes aside all other suggestions. The organizer of lecture propaganda should not blindly follow the tastes and wishes of the listener. He must shape the people's needs. But to shape these needs, he must know the people. Let us see how the wants and needs of the listeners are being met, choosing lectures on social and political subjects for analysis.

"Demand" and "Supply"

Let us briefly step away from the problems of lecture quality and what the listeners like and do not like in the lectures. Let us think about quantitative indicators. Many more social-political lectures were given than in 1970. There were marked increases in the number of lectures on the international situation (almost nine percent), the history of the CPSU (13 percent), the state and the law (eight percent), and moral-ethical and pedagogical topics (seven percent). Is this growth adequate to satisfy the interests of the audience? Or, is "supply" possibly outrunning "demand"? The most persuasive, although of course also subjective, answer to these questions can be obtained by matching these figures against the opinions of listeners as to whether "too many or too few" of these lectures are being given.

This is what we did, but the question was asked in a slightly different form: "On what subjects would you like to hear more lectures?" Analysis of the responses testifies without qualification that despite the increased number of such lectures, the audience's needs are far from being met for all of the topics without exception. Moreover, dissatisfaction with the number of lectures given has risen markedly since 1970. Whereas 10 years ago just 8.6 percent of the listeners thought that there were too few lectures on literature and art, for example, today 18 percent of those surveyed mentioned a "scarcity" of these

lectures. One out of five listeners complain of a shortage of lectures on moral-ethical topics (in 1970 it was one out of 10), while one out of three say there are not enough lectures on timely issues of CPSU foreign and domestic policy (in 1970 it was just 12 percent).

So we see that lecture propaganda has not reached its top limit yet. And it hardly seems that it ever will, because there is a pattern operating here that is paradoxical at first glance: the more lectures given, the more people want to hear them. In reality there is nothing paradoxical in this at all: it is a characteristic of cultural-spiritual needs that they can never be fully satisfied.

Comparison of the results of the studies in 1970 and 1980 convinces us that the lecture is becoming a more widespread and customary form of cultural activity for most people. It is sufficient to compare these figures: 20 years ago more than 20 percent of the workers at enterprises we surveyed did not attend lectures, and today it is just 10 percent. Today every other worker and employee attends lectures at least once every two months, whereas before the frequency of attendance was typically every four months. The changes have been particularly great with respect to rural audiences. In the early 1970's lecture propaganda in the rural rayons of the oblast was a "sore point" in the Chelyabinsk "Znaniye" society organization. A study by sociologists at that time revealed an alarming situation: 70 percent of the rural inhabitants were unable to attend lectures regularly simply because so few were given. Today 27 percent of the rural inhabitants surveyed complained of this.

So, things are fine? No, not at all. The employees of the Chelyabinsk "Znaniye" society organization and the party committees of the enterprises surveyed are upset by these figures obtained during the study: one out of 10 does not attend lectures at all, and a significant share of the workers and employees attend lectures only once or twice a year.

In practically all labor collectives women with children and young workers recently arrived on the job were among those most "consistently absent." The reasons are simply understandable. If a lecture is given after the working day the alternatives are family concerns, study, sports, and simple rest. It is clear that only an established, stable interest in learning will compel a person to postpone all domestic affairs and go to a lecture at the Palace of Culture. Moreover, the person still does not know how interesting the lecture will be. It is natural that the choice (and the leisure time of a contemporary person must be this, a choice of what to do) by no means always favors the lecture. It is a different matter when lectures are given right in the labor collective, before and immediately after work or during the lunch break.

The opinion of listeners was almost unanimous that that would be better. But it became clear later that a lecture during the lunch break (the most common form of organization for lecture propaganda) still does not guarantee 100 percent attendance. We must wonder why. After all, it would seem that a person has no other choice. Needless to say, no one has the right to force people to listen to a lecture during the lunch break. This is a completely voluntary matter. For

example, part of the lunch break can be used to listen to a lecture, or to play a game of dominoes. It can be, but should it be? After all, you can play dominoes any day, but lectures are not that frequent. You need very substantial "grounds" not to go to the red corner with everyone else. Some of the listeners find such grounds.

"Fatigue on the job" and "family circumstances" are among the long-familiar reasons given for failure to attend lectures. What is bad, though, is that many organizers of lecture propaganda hasten to classify them as "objective" reasons, as if to say these things do not depend on us. Is this true? A differentiated approach to listeners, which is required by contemporary organization of ideological work, presupposes careful consideration of the specific characteristics of all categories of working people: the conditions of their jobs, everyday life, and leisure time. Whereas it is possible to organize a lecture at the end of the working day in a shop at a metallurgical plant, this is hardly reasonable in a collective of women at a spinning-weaving factory where many of the workers are in a hurry to get their children from daycare centers and nursery schools.

In the Flow of Information

There is one more "objective" factor that certain lecture organizers love to refer to: the competition of the mass information media.

No, we do not claim that lectures are the most important and popular source of information for our contemporaries. Our study showed that, just as 10 years ago, lectures stand in fourth place in the ranks of information and propaganda media, trailing (and quite significantly) the press, radio, and television. This is not at all unexpected, of course, and it certainly is not "degrading" to the lecture.

In the first place, even if attendance at lectures is done regularly, it is an occasional event (specialists consider 10 lectures a year a good figure), whereas the press, radio, and television accompany us every day.

In the second place, the "information explosion" about which so much is written and said today has naturally led to a redistribution of free time. In the early 1970's, for example, many rayons in the mining regions of the Urals were not in the zone of "consistent reception" for television broadcast. Thanks to artificial communications satellites, the construction of relay stations, and other steps, today there is scarcely a single populated point in the Southern Urals that does not have television. Has this had an effect on people's leisure time, on the activities they choose during free time? Of course, it has.

Finally, the social-political information communicated by radio and television has a number of unquestionable advantages over a lecture in an auditorium. It is up-to-the-minute, vivid, and emotional. It comes into our homes and is offered to us at a convenient time. It is authoritative, with major scientists, leading journalists, and state figures appearing before the television audience.

What about lectures? Do they have any advantages over the mass information media? Yes, they do. We are convinced of this, specifically, by analysis of a projected ("game") situation created by sociologists. During the study persons were asked to answer this question: "If you were given the choice of hearing the same lecture on the radio, on television, or in an auditorium, which would you choose?" The "live" lecture scored a convincing victory; 75.7 percent of those surveyed "voted" for it.

Here are the reasons behind the "vote": a lecture in an auditorium is easier to listen to and is presented in a more lively, intelligible manner - 29.5 percent; you can ask the lecturer questions - 40.9 percent; it is more interesting to listen to a lecture as part of a group - 18.8 percent; after the lecture you can exchange opinions with your comrades - 25.2 percent; and, the talk is more frank at an open lecture than in the media - 14.8 percent. As you see, the reasons need no special comment. The most important one is the need for interaction. This need can be fully met only where the audience and the lecturer are in direct contact and it is this which attracts people to the lecture. It is not just a matter of feedback where the listeners can ask questions and engage the lecturer in discussion. Another type of interaction is equally important. This is the exchange of opinion which, whether organized or spontaneous, always takes place in the audience.

It is silly and artificial to juxtapose the mass information media to the public lecture. The press, radio, and television, of course, report primarily raw information on the events of public life. Unlike them the lecturer's job is not so much to communicate new information as it is to help the audience correctly interpret new phenomena, including those reports which are delivered every day by the technical mass media. The lecture cannot and should not copy the "Latest News" or the "Time" program, just as it cannot claim the currency of the "Today in the World" television broadcast each evening. The social-political lecture is above all a scientific analysis of key facts and events, expanded commentary on them, and purposeful, emotionally sharpened interpretation.

Thus, there is no reason to think that under contemporary conditions the lecture is gradually losing its stature. Whether we should be thinking of new forms for giving the lecture and different, more flexible opportunities for organizing lectures is a different matter.

[13 Nov 81 p 2]

Our Strict Connoisseurs and Judges

In the course of our study we asked listeners to evaluate the lectures and compared the results with evaluations recorded in 1970, 10 years ago. Needless to say, we were clearly aware of the full subjectivity of listener opinion.

We learned that 6.7 percent of the listeners are not satisfied by the quality of lectures given. This seems like a small figure, but still it was higher than 10 years ago, when just 4.6 percent of those surveyed expressed dissatisfaction. Moreover, the number of "good" evaluations declined sharply. Whereas in the

early 1970's more than 59 percent of the workers at enterprises surveyed evaluated the lectures they heard as "good," in 1980 it was less than 40 percent. This is a drop of almost 20 percent, and that is a great deal!

What is the reason? Are lectures being given more poorly now? But here is one more curious fact. In the oblast center almost one out of 10 persons surveyed gave lectures they had heard a low evaluation, while in the rural areas it was one out of 50. But we would expect just the opposite. The oblast center, as the point where higher educational institutions, institution of literature and the arts, scientific research institutes, and the like are concentrated, has the most highly qualified group of lecturers. Perhaps the point is not that the quality of lectures has declined, but rather that the level of interest and demands by listeners for the quality of lectures is steadily rising? It is easy to explain why these demands would be higher for an inhabitant of the oblast center than for a rural inhabitant: city dwellers have a higher level of education and a broader choice with respect to leisure time. If you like, they are more "spoiled" with meaningful information than rural inhabitants.

And it is perfectly obvious, of course, that lectures have not become worse. On the contrary, during the 1970's the qualitative composition of the lecture group improved significantly in Chelyabinskaya Oblast, as it did everywhere, the scientific methods councils of the "Znaniye" society became more active, and the organizational forms of lecture propaganda were refined. But the changes in those who attend lectures today were even more striking; they expect much more from the lecture than 10 years ago. And this is understandable.

The Path to a System of Knowledge

What is behind the evaluations of listeners? What do they expect from lectures and how are these expectations being met? When speaking of the role and significance of lectures, students of lecture propaganda very correctly point to the many different goals of a lecture appearance. Among them are ideological indoctrination, agitation, organization, counterpropaganda, and others. But this is when we look at the lecture through the eyes of the organizer and the lecturer. What if we look through the eyes of the listener?

A person usually goes to the lecture to learn something new and the learning motive is the principal one. For most listeners education, learning new things, is the obvious and self-apparent reason to go to a lecture. Needless to say, there are also other reasons, but they are not so widespread. For example, only four percent of the listeners attend lectures because they need to do so to perform their basic work. For some listeners attending social-political lectures help them in their own propaganda activity. But let us repeat that the direct learning interest predominates. More than 80 percent of the total audience surveyed mentioned this. This is no accident. Lecture propaganda is increasingly being integrated into the so-called continuous education system being formed today.

In itself the idea of continuous education is not so new. "As long as a person lives," A. V. Lunacharskiy noted long ago, "he is also learning."

So why is the idea of continuous education undergoing a second birth today? The point is that the scientific-technical revolution, the complex social problems of the contemporary world, the growing volume of new information, and other factors have made it both objectively and subjectively essential for a person to constantly replenish his knowledge. In other words, the objective need for continuous education which did exist earlier is now felt by more and more people as a pressing personal need. This need cannot be satisfied by educational institutions alone. This is the source of the growing popularity of people's universities, Lenin universities of knowledge, lecture series, and the like. Our study showed, in particular, that one out of three listeners today is no longer satisfied by occasional one-time lectures, but rather prefers to attend a series of lectures in a certain field of knowledge.

In the eyes of the audience the lecture hall is increasingly becoming a kind of educational institution, an aid in their self-education. It is important to note here that the growing desire of people to master "extracurricular" knowledge is usually disinterested. It is not dictated by the utilitarian requirements of vocational improvement, promotion at work, and the like. We will take the risk of suggesting that by no means is everyone fully aware of this trend today. But the future belongs to it. We are convinced that the lecture of the future, of the 1980's and 1990's that is, will be less and less a one-time "information activity" and will come increasingly close to its college analog, that is, providing a systematic form for organizing the learning of educational material.

We will illustrate this thought with a situation that seems to us very symptomatic and deserving of reflection. The sociologists of the Ural University made a study of students in the evening division of the history department, majoring in art history. It turned out that many of them (and they are people from very diverse occupations) are not even thinking of being professional art experts in the future. They are entirely satisfied with their present specializations, growth prospects, earnings, and the like. In other words, they do not need a diploma as such. Then why are they in school? They are there only to satisfy their interest in art better, to receive reliable knowledge on the theory of the history of culture. Could series of public lectures on art organized by the "Znanie" society today satisfy this interest to the same degree (we emphasize, to the same degree!). This is something to think about, isn't it?

The Main Effect

The fact that learning goals predominate among persons attending lectures certainly does not mean that the educational aspect of the lecture should be considered as the principal and self-sufficing one.

The party lecturer does not simply educate the audience, but also deliberately shapes the position of the audience and influences the development of their labor and political activism. As our study shows, this is exactly the kind of lecture that listeners vote for. Innocuous, politically stale lectures evoke a solid protest from a worker audience. Here is how the listeners responded when we asked them to identify especially intolerable shortcomings in lectures:

- "departure" of the lecture from critical issues (almost 37 percent of the total number surveyed);
- lecture material not closely related to actual life (more than 22 percent);
- dry, monotonous, indifferent presentation of the material (more than 21 percent);
- politically stale, out-of-date material (more than 13 percent).

Need we comment? Our audience is extremely supportive of the person on the podium. They will forgive many things such as an improper accent, poor diction, forgetfulness, and even certain mistakes in presentation of the facts. But they will never forgive indifference, false objectivity, and pseudoscientific abstraction in presentation of the lecture material. It is noteworthy that the quality indicated by listeners as most valued in a lecture was "timeliness of the subject." And while 10 years ago only 11.6 percent of those surveyed put it in first place, in the 1980 study more than 40 percent did.

In this connection we would like to observe that one out of four lectures given today in labor collectives in Chelyabinskaya Oblast is devoted to dissemination of progressive know-how and labor initiatives. Here is just one example. A movement has developed at enterprises of the oblast to conserve ferrous and nonferrous metals. All organizations of the "Znanie" society, from the oblast organization to the primary organizations, have modified their plans for lecture propaganda with this in mind, refined the subject matter of lectures, opened new departments in people's universities, and organized lecture series and practical conferences.

"The Truth, Only the Truth, and Nothing but the Truth"

In comparing the public lecture with lectures on the radio or television, listeners noted one rather important advantage of the lecture in an auditorium. It is usually sharper, more "unfettered"; as the listeners observed, "People speak more openly and say more." This is something to think about.

What lecturer is unfamiliar with the old, but reliable method of getting the audience's attention: "And now," the lecturer says in a conspiratorial tone, "I would like to share something with you that does not always get into the press, but which I can tell you in this auditorium." We can be sure that what the lecturer says in confidence to "this audience" will be remembered for a long time. We have recalled this oratorical device, which is by no means the best one but still occurs frequently, to emphasize that people come to a public lecture expecting that they can get a direct, truthful answer to any question, that the lecturer will not start "rounding off the corners," "sidestepping," covering up shortcomings, and withdrawing. It is not accidental that the listeners put "evasion of critical issues by the lecturer" first among the most intolerable shortcomings in lectures. During our investigation we suggested that our subjects

write down their suggestions for improving lectures, assuming that the topic of "critical issues" would certainly be heard. But the reality exceeded our expectations. Literally one out of three demanded: "answer questions more convincingly"" "speak more frankly about the objective situation in the country and abroad," "do not bypass the existing shortcomings and contradictions of socialism," and "put greater trust in the audience."

Are there grounds for these demands? A survey of 10,000 persons showed that there are. Judge for yourself. More than 42 percent of those surveyed believe that many lecturers sidestep (a more convenient word is "overlook") so-called "critical" issues, and almost 44 percent of the listeners said that lecturers do not give convincing answers to questions asked from the audience.

Why does this occur? There are essentially three reasons for poor answers to listeners' questions. The lecturer does not know how to answer the question and, not wanting to lose authority, avoids answering; it seems to the lecturer that the listener's question does not deserve attention ("why answer that, even a child understands it"); the lecturer hesitates to answer the question directly and truthfully because he believes that may diminish the propaganda effect of the lecture.

Let us discuss the so-called "critical issues." The endeavor to sidestep them not only fails to save the propaganda impact of the talk, as some lecturers believe, it has the opposite effect. It completely destroys it. If only this "figure of silence" discredited just the lecturer! But the consequences are much worse. The lecturer is not a private person. If the lecturer avoids critical problems and talks his way out with generalities and memorized formulas, he betrays the hopes of the people who came to hear him.

It sometimes happens that the lecturer is inadequately informed about the problems of life in the country, oblast, city, rayon, and production collective. Therefore, he does not always anticipate questions that may be asked and has trouble answering them. For several years now the Chelyabinsk "Znaniye" society organization has, with the help of the lecture group of the oblast CPSU committee, conducted an analysis of audience questions. If a question concerns local problems, it is sent to the appropriate organizations, to divisions of the executive committees of the Soviets of Peoples Deputies, and so on. The answers flow together at the boards of directors of city and rayon organizations of the "Znaniye" society and are analyzed in methods sections. After this they are reported at seminars for lecturers. At these same seminars lecturers are given information on complex sociopolitical and economic problems.

These are just a few observations made in the course of a concrete sociological study of lecture propaganda in labor collectives of Chelyabinskaya Oblast. They do not, of course, claim to be universal, and our advice cannot be a "prescription for all actual cases." Nonetheless, we hope that our conclusions and statements will not be without some use to the organizers of lecture propaganda.

REGIONAL

ORENBURG OBKOM SECRETARY ON IMPROVED WORK WITH LETTERS

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 Jan 82 p 2

[Interview with S. A. Chekasin, secretary of the Orenburg Obkom CPSU, by G. Goryachenkov; date and place not specified]

[Text] Recently the editors received a letter from the communists A. Berezhkov, V. Pavlyuchko, and V. Klimantov who are workers at the motor vehicle base of the Orenburg City Health Department. Its authors describe how an unhealthy situation developed at the enterprise. After surrounding himself with lackeys and sycophants, the chief of the motor vehicle base Zolot'ko literally demolished the work of the enterprise in a brief period of time. The communists turned to the party obkom for help. . . . "Our morale climate has improved," the motor vehicle workers write. "Many people wanted to quit before, but now they have decided to stay. The new leadership is basing itself on the party bureau in its work." Orenburg people write to the editors about different things: they ask for advice, they themselves give it, they wish to know about the domestic and foreign policies of the party and state, and they criticize shortcomings. Our correspondent met with the secretary of the Orenburg obkom CPSU comrade S. A. Chekasin and asked him to comment on the mail which the editors are receiving from Orenburgskaya Oblast.

Answer: The letters which have come into SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA and with which I have been able to become acquainted reflect, in my view, a general tendency in today's mail. In comparison with, for example, last year, there have been appreciable changes in its content. There are now a larger number of practical proposals and criticism has a more constructive character.

Another difference of the present mail from last year's is a decrease in the number of letters connected with personal requests and complaints. . . .

We are happy for such letters, for, on the one hand, they characterize a growth in the political activeness of people and their sincere civic concern about affairs of state and of society as a whole. On the other hand, for us party workers letters are a valuable flow of information about the state of affairs in the localities and about the needs and hopes of the workers of town and country.

A decrease in the number of personal complaints is also natural. It is a result of definite successes in realizing the social and economic program for the development of the Southern Urals. It is also testimony to the fact that the oblast's party, government, and economic agencies are improving, as is demanded by the Central Committee, the work with workers' letters.

A year ago when preparations were being made for the plenum of the obkom at which there was a special discussion of this question we noted that in the work with letters there was less formalism and that the letters were in fact becoming strong living threads connecting the party committees and the population. At that time we calculated that in two years the oblast's party committees had discussed 360 questions raised in the letters of citizens or in oral addresses. On the basis of letters decisions were taken, for example, on improving the party direction of public health and social security agencies and on the work of the Orenburg party gorkom to further develop the material and technical base of trade and of domestic services. In brief, the letters served as a basis for the examination of fundamentally important questions.

Nevertheless, I am far from the opinion that everything which is possible and everything which is necessary has been done in the organization or work with letters. It also happens that some comrades are publicly unstinting in their gratitude for good advice and suggestions, and they willingly provide assurances and promises. But, in fact, they disregard advice, and they regard help to people as a favor. . . . Such facts were brought to light at the plenum of the obkom and were subjected to strict censure. Punishment was meted out to those who deserved it, and those who needed it were corrected. But the most important thing is that a complex of measures was outlined whose realization will to a definite degree guarantee a punctual and business-like and, what is especially important, a conscientious and unbiased examination of letters and oral declarations.

Now all of the letters which come into the obkom are analyzed every month by the topics and problems raised in them. This permits us to have a clear view of what exactly at any given moment is of concern to people in a specific rayon or at a specific enterprise. A study is made of all of the answers which are given by party committees to the authors of the statements and complaints which these committees have been charged with examining. In my opinion, the rule that all of the mail is read by obkom secretaries which has been instituted in the oblast committee has proven to be very useful. Recently, for example, a certification was received from the Pervomayskiy Raykom of the party: the complaints against the director of the so-and-so sovkhos have been checked out, and the director has been informed of them. From the reply it could be felt that there had been no careful check, while the complaints, it must be said, were very serious and, if valid, then "informing" is only a ground for new complaints and clearly of no benefit to our common work. After all, a lack of principle is not the best ally in increasing exactingness and responsibility toward one's work. I have telephoned the first secretary of the raykom and ordered him to personally look into the complaints more attentively. Incidentally, in accordance with a decision by the bureau of the party obkom, all repeat letters are considered personally by the heads of organizations.

Of course, the oblast's party committees see their chief task not only in having officials react to complaints punctually and correctly, but also in eliminating the causes which give rise to the complaints.

Question: The mail from Orenburg shows that there is one especially painful "sore point"; the supply of housing. What is being done, Stepan Alekseyevich, in order to reduce the complaints about this to a minimum?

Answer: It has happened that in housing construction Orenburg has lagged behind the centers of neighboring oblasts. This lagging has given rise to much criticism and to many requests and demands which it was frequently simply not possible to satisfy. It was frequently necessary to refuse help also for the residents of other cities.

Today the situation has changed sharply. In two five-year plans, for example, in Orenburg alone 2,825,000 square meters of housing has been built, and in the other cities, settlements, and villages of the oblast housing with a total area of 800,000-850,000 square meters is being built every year. Today no one asks any longer: Give me some kind of housing. Today it is a matter of well-appointed apartments. Two years ago the bureau of the party obkom set the appropriate organizations a task: to rapidly provide housing for all people who were in acute need of it. And today I am able to say that quite a bit has been done. For example, of the 5,000 families which have been living in temporary houses built in connection with the construction of a gas complex, 272 families remain to be resettled in comfortable homes.

Question: There are still letters in which people complain about an incorrect approach to the distribution of housing.

Answer: I have to say that complaints of that kind are understandable, but not always justified. There are people who think that their personal inconveniences are the greatest, that their sadnesses are the deepest, and that their reasons are the most convincing. And they do not always know the true situation and the genuine cares of others. And the fact that an apartment has been given not to him, but to his neighbor, is regarded as an injustice. Housing is distributed in our oblast in accordance with the generally accepted regulations and the law. Strict control by party and trade union bodies has been established over this. Nevertheless, we give especial attention to letters in which attention is called to cases of abuses in the distribution of housing. If they are confirmed, we mete out strict punishments to the guilty parties. Thus, for example, an instructor from the Orenburg rayispolkom who obtained an apartment through deceit was removed from his job and expelled from the party. For having "moved forward" the line for an apartment for his wife's sister the chairman of the Akbulakskiy rayispolkom Manannikov was also removed from his job. He was also punished strictly along party lines. Cruel? Yes! But we could not act otherwise, we did not have the right. Because such actions cause not simply a lengthening of someone's line; they cause enormous damage to morale and they inflict damage upon the authority of party and government organizations.

Question: An appeal for help and support to the obkom and to central agencies is often caused solely by the fact that the authors of the letters receive unjustified rejections at, so to speak, home. Complaints of this kind come to SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA also from Orenburgskaya Oblast. . . .

Answer: I have already spoken about the complex of measures to improve work with letters. They have been working quite effectively, but it is true that some leaders who have been entrusted with this important work sector do not always have a deep awareness of the responsibility which has been placed upon them and do not always justify the confidence in their sensitivity, concern, solicitude, and sense of justice which is shown by a person who has appealed for advice and help precisely to them. In evaluating such workers we proceed from the idea that the maturity of cadres is determined to a large extent precisely by how they approach the examination of workers' letters and how objective and principled their reactions are to signals and declarations. And if a person, the more so a leader, does not show this maturity, then, of course, we cannot entrust him with the leadership of a sector. We have to show an especially intolerant attitude toward cases of the squelching of criticism and of prejudice.

I will cite two more examples. The former worker at the Novotroitsa Ferroconcrete Products Plant Kireyeva made a request that she be assigned a pension on privileged terms. Neither the director nor the chairman of the plant trade union committee wanted to help the woman. Eleven months went by on petitioning. Finally, the city social security office assigned her a pension, but not from the day of the submission of the application, but from the day of the presentation of documents. Naturally, new complaints arose: to the city social security office, to the oblast social security office, and to the gorispolkom. And all to no avail: Kireyeva's letters got into the hands of her tormentors. And they, having become "insulted" by the pensioner, deprived her of a privileged pension. The indifference and irresponsibility of the officials was properly evaluated. The party gorkom gave strict punishment to the plant director Kuznetsov, the manager of the social security section of the gorispolkom Nikitina, and the deputy chairman of the gorispolkom Blinov. And the bureau of the party obkom announced a reprimand to the chief of the oblast social security department Timashev.

Comrade Gazimullin, a worker at an "Orenburggazprom" trade and procurement base and a member of a people's control group, opposed the abuses, mismanagement, and rudeness of individual workers and fought for a strengthening of labor discipline. But he did not receive support from the leaders and the public organizations of the base. Worse than that, they began to intimidate him. Having despaired, Gazimullin wrote a declaration on leaving his job. His "request" was hastily met.

On a charge from the obkom, this question was examined by the bureau of the Orenburg gorkom. Justice, of course, triumphed. The former chief of the base Iret'yakov, who at the time Gazimullin's letter was being verified had received a promotion--he began to work as the chief of the trade department--was for his inattentive attitude toward letters and rude suppression of criticism expelled from the party and removed from his job. The same punishment was endured by his successor Kurbanov. The deputy chief of the Workers' Supply Administration Pen'kov

had announced to him a strict reprimand which was entered in his record card, and he was also removed from his job. A similar punishment was given to the secretary of the party committee of the Workers' Supply Administration Gol'tsov. For a formal attitude to a complaint by a people's controller a reprimand has been announced for the secretary of the party committee of "Orenburggazprom" Prognimak. Nor have any of the other people who are responsible before the party for squelching criticism and for protecting this evil escaped punishment. Of course, this kind of attitude toward letters is an exception. Usually, the reasons for unsatisfactory work with letters are elsewhere: in an inability to see what stands behind them--a fact or a phenomenon,--and sometimes in the incompetence of the performers. Hence--half-measures, hence--the elimination of individual shortcomings, but not of the reasons that give rise to them. And hence, finally, attempts simply to be silent in reply to criticism. . . . But we are persistently teaching people to work with letters, and this training is producing results.

The decree of the party's Central Committee "On Measures to Further Improve Work With the Letters and Suggestions of Workers in the Light of the Decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress" obliges us not to be complacent with what has been achieved. Let us remember the words from the Summary Report of the CC to the 26th CPSU Congress. "Every party worker and every leader has to look upon a sensitive and attentive attitude toward the letters, requests, and complaints of citizens as his duty to the people and to the party." It cannot be otherwise in our society; for behind the letter there stands a person.

2959

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REGIONAL

PRIMARY PARTY GROUPS MUST IMPROVE LABOR DISCIPLINE

Moscow PARTIYNAYA ZHIZN' in Russian No 21, Nov 81 (signed to press 27 Oct 81) pp 26-33

[Article by R. Musin, first secretary, Tatarskiy obkom of the CPSU: "Primary Party Organizations: Increasing the Labor and Social Activism of the Masses"]

[Excerpts] Discipline, order and organization are extremely capacious concepts that encompass many demands of socialist management. The strengthening of discipline and organization in production, in every workplace is one of the major reserves for enhancing society's wealth and is an important source for raising labor productivity. V. I. Lenin repeatedly emphasized that a "substantial task in positive communist construction, in the creation of new economic relations and a new society" is directly connected to "iron discipline on the job...." Discipline, he stated, "is the core of all economic socialist construction...."

Socialist labor discipline, as the discipline of a conscious attitude toward labor, is formed by the entire orientation of our life. But this is not an automatic process. The party is ever mindful of all questions associated with improving labor discipline.

The problem of strengthening discipline is resolved directly in the work collective. It is specifically the work collective that under the leadership of primary party organizations inculcates a communist attitude toward labor, high labor discipline and responsibility for the work of the collective. The party implements its policy and strengthens its ties with the masses through the primary party organizations.

Taking into account changes taking place in the economy under the conditions of the further concentration and specialization of production, the Tatarskiy obkom, party gorkoms and party raykoms are continuously improving the structure of primary party organizations in order to secure the optimal placement of communists and through them to exert an ever increasing influence on the economic activity of enterprises, on the education of the work force and on the strengthening of labor discipline. During the 10th Five-Year Plan, the number of our primary party organizations has grown by more than 15 percent. The growth of their number has been accompanied by an increase in the number and improvement of the quality of the communists in these organizations. The average number of members and candidate members of the CPSU per primary party organization is 125 at industrial enterprises and 60-63

on kolkhozes and sovkhozes. In the last 5 years, the number of communists with higher, incomplete higher and secondary education increased by almost 12 percent. The network of shop party organizations and party groups expanded. Between 1976 and 1980, their number increased by 289 and 874, respectively. The qualitative composition of party committee and bureau secretaries improved. Today over half of this category of the party aktiv have higher education.

The party obkom shows unceasing concern for improving the activity of primary party organizations, for strengthening their role in the struggle for the inculcation of conscious discipline, for increasing the labor and social activism of people. In the last 2 years alone, we heard reports from more than 20 primary party organizations, reports from a number of party gorkoms and party raykoms on their supervision. The question of increasing the activism of primary party organizations in mobilizing the masses for the implementation of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress was examined at a plenum of the party obkom in August of this year.

The republic's primary party organizations see their principal task to lie in exerting and constant, purposeful influence on the activity of enterprises and organizations, in creating in the collectives a moral and political atmosphere that would enable them to maintain a high degree of organization and discipline, that would ready people for shock work, for the fulfillment and overfulfillment of plans of the first year and the 11th Five-Year Plan as a whole.

The recent decree of the CPSU Central Committee "On the Work of the Nizhnekamskiy Gorkom of the CPSU on Mobilizing Enterprise Collectives to Increase the Effectiveness of Production and to Improve the Quality of Work in the Light of the Decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress" was the mobilizing factor in the organizational work of all primary party organizations of Tatarsiya in inculcating conscious discipline and in involving all working people in the effort to strengthen this discipline. The Central Committee of the party obligated party organizations to show constant concern for increasing the labor and social activism of the working people and to instill in them a high feeling of responsibility for the quality of work and a thrifty attitude toward public property. The creative search for production reserves must become the norm of the labor activity of each worker, specialist and supervisor.

In the complex of organizational and ideological measures elaborated by the party obkom, gorkoms and raykoms relative to the fulfillment of the given decree, much attention is devoted to further increasing the responsibility of primary party organizations for the formation of an atmosphere of demandingness, comradely mutual aid at every enterprise, on every construction site, on every sovkhoz and kolkhoz, and for the development of the working people's initiative. Communists have been assigned the task of consistently and purposefully strengthening labor discipline, order and organization in all links.

The most important directions of activity of party organizations to strengthen labor discipline are: raising the technical level of production, improving the organization of labor, and creating favorable conditions for highly productive work. This has a favorable impact on the atmosphere in the collective and creates a healthy working mood within the collective.

The acceleration of scientific and technical progress is the basis of strengthening the creative character of labor and is an indispensable condition to the strengthening of discipline. V. I. Lenin emphasized that "technology prescribes the unconditionally strictest discipline and the greatest scrupulousness in the observance of the share of work assigned to each person...."

Primary party organizations are doing much to introduce advances of science and technology into production. At their initiative, each enterprise develops comprehensive plans for scientific and technical progress, the implementation of which is under constant party supervision. Meetings of communists and sessions of party committees hear regular reports from economic managers, from specialists on technical improvements of production. The work of commissions that monitor administrative activity promotes the full realization of the given measures.

The increased influence of party organizations during the 10th Five-Year Plan facilitated the introduction of over 4,000 units of progressive equipment and approximately 1800 mechanized and automated flow lines into industrial production and the total mechanization of over 600 shops and sectors.

The republic's kolkhozes and sovkhoses have mechanized most types of field work. New technology is also being actively introduced on livestock farms where many arduous manual operations are also fully mechanized. It should be emphasized that we attach particular significance to the mechanization of agriculture. We consider the fact that in addition to other factors, there are also very acute personnel problems here: despite the large volume of agricultural production on kolkhozes and sovkhoses, they employ only about 18 percent of the republic's employed population.

The raising of the technical level of production of all branches of the national economy made it possible to take a sharp turn toward the primarily intensive path of their development. Under the 10th Five-Year Plan, the share of increased labor productivity due to technical progress measures exceeded 75 percent.

But we are far from complacent. Analysis shows that some republic enterprises are still slow in raising the level of mechanization and automation of labor especially in assembly, loading-unloading and monitoring operations. Nor is enough concern shown for production esthetics, for the creation of favorable conditions for the highly productive labor of the work force. And this, as practice shows, leads to higher personnel turnover and to the slackening of labor discipline. It is for this reason that we encourage primary party organizations to work even more persistently on raising the technical level of production, to analyze the activity of managers and specialists concerned with the technical retooling and reconstruction of enterprises and with the preparation and launching of new production facilities and technological processes.

Improvement of the organization of labor also has a substantial influence on the strengthening of order and discipline. One avenue leading to such improvement is the brigade which works on the basis of the same order [naryad]. The brigade organization of labor is being diffused throughout the republic. Today approximately half of the industrial workers belong to brigades. This progressive form of organization of labor must become still more widespread under the 11th Five-Year Plan. This point is directly indicated in the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress.

What changes result from the introduction of brigade cost accounting? The changes are numerous. Above all, there is collective interest in and responsibility for the attainment of the end results of the work. The result of all this is a favorable moral and psychological climate. And naturally each violation of labor discipline is strictly evaluated by the members of the collective.

Absentees are reprimanded by fellow brigade members at a workers' meeting and if necessary are punished in monetary terms. Practice shows that intrashift idle time in brigades at machine building enterprises is reduced to one-half or one-third of the previous level and that the average annual increase in labor productivity is nine percent. It should also be borne in mind that the brigade form of organization of labor creates good conditions for upgrading occupational skills, for mastering related specialties, which in turn promotes the elimination of "bottlenecks" and the lowering of losses of working time.

This is why the formation of brigades from the very beginning has been under the constant control of the republic's primary party organizations. They take a most direct part in the formation of the collectives of brigades. And this is not such a very easy matter. The transition to the brigade method requires breaking with the mental attitude that developed as a result of individual piecework over the years in the course of which some people developed the striving to obtain more "profitable" work and were primarily concerned with personal success. For this reason, communists must perform a very important task: use facts and figures to explain to workers the advantages of the brigade method so that they themselves would understand the need to form brigades and would do so voluntarily. But this is still not everything. In the process of forming the brigades, party organizations try not only to consider the intrashop technological flow at the enterprise but also the psychological compatibility and moral qualities of workers. It is necessary to reflect at length before recommending a brigade leader who will to a decisive degree determine the working mood of the collective and the establishment of a healthy moral and political atmosphere within it.

In a word, primary party organizations do a considerable amount of work to introduce collective forms of organization of labor. But it must be said candidly that they lose sight of many things and fail to do everything they should. Thus out of all the brigades, only a few have established party groups. And yet it is well known that the collectives that make the best showing are those that have a firm nucleus of communists capable of leading others, capable of setting the tone in labor, capable of presenting an example of discipline. Therefore, we try to see to it that the organization of party groups in cost accounting brigades would be one of the main directions in the work of the republic's party organizations. We are stern with those who are listless in their attitude toward this question and who underestimate its relevance to the higher effectiveness of social production.

Nor can we be satisfied with the rate of restructuring of the organization of labor. The brigade form is being introduced at a slow pace at some enterprises. The force of inertia, which was discussed at the 26th Party Congress, the habit of thinking in old categories, and the reluctance of some managers to take on additional work to improve planning and timely material-technical supply evidently make themselves known. But who if not the party organizations must be alarmed by such a situation and demand that such officials take a responsible approach to the matter? They have every possibility and all rights to make this demand.

And it is intolerable when a party organization is formal in its approach to the organization of brigades, is not interested in the life of primary production cells, and does not influence the formation of such collectives. For example, in some brigades of the "Bugul'manefemash" production association, wages were distributed among workers without regard to their personal contribution to the work of the collective and proper attention was not devoted to training personnel in related occupations.

In order to correct the situation, the party obkom makes stricter demands on those party committees that do little to assist primary party organizations to create an atmosphere of organization and mutual demandingness.

The strengthening of the ideological and political education of the working people and the inculcation of them with a communist attitude toward labor are a no less important direction in the effort of primary party organizations to strengthen labor discipline, order and organization. In this regard, we attach much importance to the organization of political and economic education, to the organization of socialist competition and to the utilization of the power of the work collective.

Multifaceted party-political work to strengthen socialist labor discipline is conducted on the basis of the strengthening of the relationship of propaganda and agitation to the solution of economic tasks, to their greater effectiveness and concreteness. Special attention is devoted to the affirmation of the authority of honest, conscientious, creative labor as a key factor in the fight against consumerism and vestiges of philistinism. Party organizations try to use various ideological means to reveal the creative force and high moral value of work that is full of initiative; to educate people on the basis of concrete examples of the unconditional fulfillment of civic obligations; and to show the great harm that is caused to the nation's economy and moral atmosphere in the collective by absenteeism, lack of discipline and other negative phenomena.

The system of political and economic education and schools of communist labor devote much attention to the study of the works of V. I. Lenin, to the study of party and government documents concerning the strengthening of labor discipline, the fundamental principles of labor legislation, and the experience of production leaders and innovators.

Nonetheless the competition has not yet everywhere become an effective method of realizing economic and educational tasks. In a number of labor collectives, the competition does little to orient workers toward the attainment of high end results, toward strengthening conscious labor discipline. Party organizations are occasionally indifferent to the dissemination of valuable initiatives, fail to publicize the competition and do not promote a truly competitive atmosphere among its participants. In a word, as mentioned at the 26th CPSU Congress, formalism makes itself known in the development of labor competition. And we will have to make a considerable effort so that no party organization would be reconciled to shortcomings in the organization of the competition, so that every party organization would actively struggle for its high effectiveness.

The obkom, gorkoms and raykoms of the party are striving to see to it that primary party organizations raise the educational role of the collective in the struggle to strengthen discipline and organization. "To the person working in the

collective," Comrade L. I. Brezhnev emphasizes, "the collective is home, family, and school. It is specifically in the collective that professional experience, mastery and the habit of working conscientiously are passed on from one generation to another."

Hence it is understandable why the most effective way of influencing a violator of labor discipline is discussion within the collective. Wherever the party organization and collective keep a tight check on people who have violated the norms of labor discipline and social conduct, order and organization are higher.

In this regard, party and trade union organizations ascribe major importance to workers' meetings in the education of the working people. First of all, they try to see to it that a greater measure of planning is introduced into the practice of conducting workers' meetings so that they would discuss not only production affairs and the fulfillment of the plan for a given month or quarter, but also the state of educational work and discipline in the collective. It is important that trade union committees keep a tight check on the implementation of proposals made by workers at the meetings.

I wish to emphasize: in their effort to strengthen discipline, order and organization, communists of enterprises, kolkhozes and sovkhoses try to make more complete use of the power and potential of social organizations of working people and especially their most massive form: trade unions.

G. Gimadiyev, a member of the CPSU, worked as chairman of the "Friendship" collective farm. He grossly violated labor and plan discipline and abused his official position. In other words, while occupying an official position, G. Gimadiyev not only did not strengthen order and organization on the farm, but instead had an essentially demoralizing effect on people. However, the collective farm's primary party organization did not make demands on him and did not criticize him. Only after the intervention of higher party organs were measures taken against him. The Kukmorskiy Raykom of the CPSU expelled him from the ranks of the party. He was stripped of his chairmanship.

Unfortunately, some primary party organizations occasionally lack principle in evaluating such leaders. No small measure of blame here would seem to rest with party gorkoms and raykoms that still do not sufficiently analyze the processes that take place in party organizations and do not render effective assistance in improving their work.

The struggle for healthy, well organized life is one of the directions in the overall complex of work of primary party organizations in the effort to instill socialist labor discipline. It presupposes effective educational activity in the home and the rational organization of various spheres of personal services.

We know, for example, the harm that is caused by so-called administratively authorized leave. The reason given for granting such leave is that savings banks, notarial offices, and drug stores are open only during working hours. With the aid of the appropriate organs, we see to it that organizations in the service sphere arrange their work routine to accommodate the population.

In order that party organizations might effectively combat violations of discipline, we demand that they have a clear picture of their cause: level of education, family strife, or shortcomings in educational work. Only by getting to the heart of the problem, by carefully studying it, can we find the means of influencing the state of discipline.

Analysis by party organizations shows that over half of the young violators of labor discipline are young workers. Evidently, the family and the school have not succeeded in instilling everyone with a sense of responsibility for their assigned task. When coming to work at the plant, on the kolkhoz or sovkhoz, they sometimes have a frivolous attitude toward their jobs and become violators of labor discipline from the very first days on the job. Communists together with social organizations have to correct educational deficiencies "on the run." Young workers are assigned experienced mentors who not only teach young workers a craft but also inspire their need for honest, conscientious work.

Unfortunately, the cause of violations associated with family strife continues to be a "dark spot" for many party organizations. And in my view, an important factor is that some party organizations do not show proper interest in the problems of the family whose proper functioning largely determines man's attitude toward his job. This is food for thought for party gorkoms and raykoms that devote unconscionably little attention to strengthening the role of primary party organizations in the strengthening of the family.

Drunkenness, which causes great economic and moral harm, is a major evil. It is the basis for the growth of absenteeism, for violations of labor and technological discipline, and for family strife. The republic's party organizations have done much to eradicate this social evil. Specialized institutions that detect alcoholics and bring them to account, alcoholism control commissions created under all executive committees of city and rayon soviets of people's deputies, and the corresponding sections of prevention councils in labor collectives have begun operating more effectively. More active use is made of the potential of treatment dispensary, the party and society are more closely monitoring the observance of regulations governing trade in alcoholic beverages, and the network of narcological points and posts at enterprises has been expanded. The forms of interaction of internal affairs organs with health care, cultural and other institutions are being improved. Measures taken to prevent alcoholism promote the creation of an atmosphere of intolerance and general condemnation around those who abuse alcohol.

A most important indicator of the state of discipline and organization in the collective is the moral atmosphere in the collective. In a strong, unified collective all violations of norms governing labor discipline and public order encounter strong condemnation. Therefore the party obkom, gorkom and raykoms encourage primary party organizations to increase their influence on the formation of specifically that kind of collectives and to make every person implacable toward shortcomings.

Guided by the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent decrees of the Central Committee of the party, the Tatarskaya Oblast party organization strives to improve its activity directed toward raising communist consciousness, toward the strengthening of discipline, order and organization. And, as a result,

the state plan for sales volume for the first half of 1981 was fulfilled ahead of schedule on 29 June. Industrial output increased by five percent compared with the level for last year. The plan for construction and installation work has been fulfilled by the republic's organizations. The production of livestock products increased compared with the corresponding period for last year.

The workers of Tatariya are striving to complete the targets of the first year and of the 11th Five-Year Plan as a whole. The high political and labor activism of people, the strengthening of discipline, and the strengthening of the responsibility of each person for his work are the reliable guarantee of our future successes.

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5013

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REGIONAL

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR ODESSA FARMS' LOW RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Jan 82 p 3

[Article by F. Chernetskiy, IZVESTIYA correspondent, Saratskiy Rayon, Odesskaya Oblast: "Idle Revolutions: Why Is the Ruble Not Providing the Proper Return on the Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes of Saratskiy Rayon?"]

[Text] Recently I happened to visit the farms of Saratskiy Rayon. I asked about the economic work on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and asked how the rather considerable assets and funds which are going into the development of agriculture -- and in constantly increasing volumes with every passing five-year plan -- are "working" for production.

Saratskiy Rayon cannot be considered either one of the advanced rayons or one of the lagging ones. It is precisely Saratskiy Rayon's, so to speak, "middle position" that provides the opportunity to a certain degree to analyze certain processes in agricultural production which are also typical of the oblast as a whole. And, apparently, not only for the oblast. The rayon has 15 kolkhozes and three sovkhozes. The farms are not subdivided into departments, and basically they have just one boss -- the rayon administration. One does not observe here any misalignments in the turnover rate of the managerial personnel. In order to characterize the rayon, one should state that the land here is good, with chernozem soils. True, one cannot count on the weather here from year to year: dry winds are frequent guests, and, since there are no irrigated areas of land, this frequently puts the farms in complicated situations. The vegetable husbandry-men in Saratskiy Rayon are recognized masters in the growing of sunflowers. Corn -- whether grown for seed or as commercial grain -- is also a traditional crop for the rayon. Viticulture is well developed. There is a rather large amount of productive livestock.

With First Secretary of the rayon party committee, Anatoliy Petrovich Pankov and chief of the rayon administration of agriculture, Valentin Nikiforovich Chumachenko, we analyze the economic reports for the rayon. We compare figures, and ascertain what they reflect. We have a thorough-going, frank discussion. We take as our basis the results of the farms' activities during the Ninth and Tenth Five-Year Plans.

The increase in gross output, if one compares the average annual indicators for the two five-year plans, constitutes almost 5 million rubles. Is that a lot or is

it a little? It is difficult to give an unambiguous answer. An objective criterion in this instance could be the capital investments, their volumes: what was invested, how much, what return was received. And the decisive role here is played by the fixed assets of production. Their degree of saturation and their structure influence the level of production of output.

In the Ninth Five-Year Plan those assets on the rayon's farms grew noticeably. The material-technical base was substantially reinforced. But the difference between the rates of increase of fixed assets of production and gross output is extremely tangible -- 28 and 9 percent. In other words, the investments grew 3 times faster than the return on investments. True, it is necessary to consider the fact that not all the fixed assets, so to speak, directly work for the harvest. Therefore let us isolate separately the investments intended specifically for agricultural, production purposes. Here the contrast is even sharper: their value increased by practically one-half, and the gap between the rate of increase in gross output and the increase in the value of the fixed assets reaches a five-fold value. Putting it more simply, from every additionally invested ruble, output valued at 20 kopecks was produced. Thus, one immediately asks for an answer to the question: did the rayon's farms have a large increase or a small increase in the gross output? Would one say a small increase? But, nevertheless, let us take a little more time in making a final conclusion.

Up to now, we have been talking about the total value of the fixed assets. But a factor of no less importance is their structure. A ruble expended for the purchase of tractors, combines, motor vehicles, and other means, and a ruble expended for the construction of accommodations for animal husbandry work differently. That is what is shown by the comparisons of certain average-annual indicators. On the rayon's farms, the number of tractors (in physical terms) increased by 10 percent; and in conventional, standard terms, by 8 percent. The number of grain-harvesting combines remained at its previous level; the number of corn-harvesting combines dropped by 10 percent. The motor-vehicle pool increased by 9 percent. Consequently, the real capacity of the machine-tractor pool -- that most active part of the fixed assets -- in general increased proportionately to the increase in the volume of gross output, which increase, as was already noted, comes to 9 percent.

Consequently, the value evaluation of the fixed assets requires a certain interpretation. For example, let us consider those same machines. A large amount of money was expended for them, and in the fixed assets they occupy a noticeable place, but they do not guarantee a complete return on the ruble invested in them. This is a contradiction that is influenced, in particular, by the following. The previous tractors are to be replaced, for example, by new, energy-saturated K-700 tractors. Their cost is approximately twice as much. One would think that the return on investment is also supposed to grow proportionately. However, because of the lack of the total set of necessary machines and tools, the energy-saturated tractors are harnessed to the plow that was used with the T-74, or one attaches to it the trailer intended for the Belarus' tractor. The return remains the same, but with increase depreciation and operational expenses. Let us take the cost of a new grain-harvesting combine. That cost has approximately doubled, but the productivity of the combine has remained at practically the same level. That is a kind of example of how, when there has been, on the whole, a correct trend in capital investments, they turn out to be insufficiently effective because of the fact that they were made in a noncomprehensive manner: they are not covered by an increase in productivity.

It is already obvious that the capital investments in animal husbandry also are not having the corresponding return. Economists compute how much reinforced concrete and metal are being used today in terms of a single cow or calf. The figures that result are impressive. The volumes of reinforced concrete and metal are growing considerably more rapidly than the milk yields and weight increases in the animals.

Much is being done to mechanize the technological processes on the animal farms. That mechanization also costs a pretty kopeck. The herd productivity has not been increasing very much. It is necessary first of all to fatten up the cow. But the supplies of fodders are thin. It is necessary to take them from the fodder field. And that means taking them with the aid of the very same tractors and trucks which, if one judges by the value, exist in large supply, but which actually are in insufficient amount.

The farm managers have a large number of claims against Sel'khoztekhnika. In the economic interrelations with that organization there are a lot of rough spots. Here are a few examples. Previously the farms would drive, for example, the combine from the railroad station, or from the base, by using their own efforts. Depending upon the distance, as much as a hundred rubles would be expended for this. Now, Sel'khoztekhnika itself delivers the very same combine to the farm, but it costs the kolkhoz or sovkhos practically 10 times more -- 11 percent of the cost of the machine. The situation is the same with the delivery of spare parts. There is an infringement upon the interests of the kolkhozes, primarily the financial interests, when repairing the technology.

Other partners of the vegetable husbandrymen also are, as yet, showing little concern for the "health" of the kolkhoz ruble. Associates of the Ukrainian Scientific-Research Institute for the Economy and Organization of Agriculture imeni Shlikhter computed: the republic's kolkhozes and sovkhoszes expended 58 million rubles in 1979 for delivery of milk by using their own transportation, and only slightly more than half was returned to them on the basis of rates. When transporting livestock to meat combines, the kolkhozes fail to be compensated for approximately one-third of their expenditures. Or take grain. During the harvesting period, sends the grain -- at purchase prices (8.9 rubles per quintal) -- to the elevator, and after a certain period of time some of the grain returns as forage. But now there is a different price: grain, to be used as grain, is 14 rubles, but processed as combined fodder, is 24 rubles [per quintal]. For purposes of comparison we might state that the production costs of one quintal of the very same combined fodder at an interfarm plant is 15 rubles. One could continue to list similar examples.

If, however, one generalizes, one can discern a distinct tendency: the funds are being pumped from one area to another. The state invests tremendous funds in agriculture. But those funds, which have been sent to the kolkhozes and sovkhoszes, are not kept there. Instead, in various forms and types, they are transferred to "subcontractors," to partners who use them to construct their own prosperity. The partners purchase, and agriculture loses. The state sends more full-valued rubles to the kolkhozes and sovkhoszes. And their path is again repeated. What does this lead to?

It was already noted that the volume of production of gross agricultural output in Saratskiy Rayon increased by 9 percent. According to the logic of things,

one ought to expect the following result: more output and more gross income. In any case, this is necessary for the stable development of the farm, for the observance of the requirements of expanded reproduction. But what kind of tendency does one observe here? Here are the comparative figures: in the Ninth Five-Year Plan the average-annual gross income of the farms in the rayon was a total of 29,715,000 rubles; in the Tenth, 29,375,000, that is, 340,000 rubles less. It is a strange situation that is being created: the entire average-annual increase in production -- 5 million rubles -- was produced by farms and transferred to society, as it were, as a present, free of charge. But the farms, in order to make ends meet, have to get funds from somewhere. Therefore there has been an increase in the total amount of credit given to the kolkhozes by the State Bank, a sum that is computed as many millions of rubles.

Now it is necessary to ascertain who wins in this and who loses. Society received from the farms in Saratskiy Rayon a 9-percent increase in gross production. It would be desirable, of course, to receive more, but on the whole there has been a gain. But what kind of situation is there from the point of view of the kolkhoz member or the sovkhos worker? There also should be no complaints there. Judge for yourselves: the average-annual fund for payment of labor increased by 13 percent and at rates which, as we can see, even outstripped the production of output. And so every worker personally also gained. The only thing that suffered a loss was the farm: with an increase in the volumes of production of output, there was a reduction in income. That is a tendency which is obviously unfavorable.

That situation was created by virtue both of objective reasons which we have already discussed and subjective reasons: the ability to run a farm, labor and production discipline, the level of administration. There is a large number of barriers on the path of reinforcing the economy of the kolkhozes and sovkhos. Therefore Comrade L. I. Brezhnev at the November 1981 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee emphasized, "It is necessary to create those conditions which would encourage more actively the growth and increase in intensity of agricultural production, and would encourage the initiative of the kolkhozes and sovkhos, and all the links in the agroindustrial complex. . ." A large amount of work remains to be done in this direction. And the practical life of Saratskiy Rayon attests to the fact that it is necessary to engage in that work in a thorough-going, serious manner, and to carry it out fundamentally.

5075

CSO: 1800/229

REGIONAL

TURKMEN FARMS SHOW IMPORTANCE OF MANAGEMENT FOR RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Jan 82 p 1

[Article by V. Gavrichkin, IZVESTIYA correspondent, Turkmen SSR: "Investments and Return: Why Results Are Different on Neighboring Farms"]

[Text] Recently there have been frequent remarks concerning the reduction in the effectiveness of investments in agricultural production. This is explained by the rise in the prices of technology, equipment, building materials, and the services provided to agriculture, and also by the complexities in the process of the primary accumulation of the means of production, when, at first, there is an inevitable increase in the production costs, and, consequently, a reduction in the return on each ruble.

But every reduction in return has a limit. Investments in production qualitatively change it, make it more mobile, more intensive. Apparently, another factor is the ability to dispose of the ruble and the new capabilities that have been created with its aid. And that is an ability which, unfortunately, not everyone possesses.

The economic effectiveness of agricultural production is linked with the extent to which it is provided with the basic production assets. Let us take, for example, two farms. The Soviet Turkmenistany Kolkhoz, for every 100 rubles of those assets, produces output valued at 79.1 rubles; but its neighbor, the Kolkhoz imeni Makhtumkuli, produces output valued at 78.4 rubles. Both farms are managed in what would appear to be an identically effective manner. But that is only at first glance...

At the Soviet Turkmenistany, during the past five years the fixed production assets increased by 38 percent; and at its neighbor, by 66. During the same period of time at the first farm the return on investment dropped by 9 percent; and next door, by 36 percent.

Let us compare the structure of the fixed assets on both farms. On the Soviet Turkmenistany, the percentage of buildings and structures in the overall assets balance sheet constitutes almost 70 percent; machinery and equipment, 7 percent; and productive livestock, also 7 percent. For its neighbor, the situation is somewhat different: respectively, 40, 11, and 22 percent. From the economical point of view, the situation would appear to be preferable at that farm which develops the active part of the assets (machinery and livestock, as specifically the components

of an active part that is rapidly paying them back). But upon checking one sees a result that is directly opposite: whereas on the first farm the production of gross output per 100 hectares of sown areas during the five-year period increased to 340,000 rubles, that is, by 32 percent, on the second farm it dropped to 164,000 rubles, or by more than half. In other words, the production of gross output at Soviet Turkmenistany proved to be 2.1 times greater, and the productivity of live labor, even 3 times greater.

The reasons for this will become obvious if one considers that here the extent to which production was provided with assets and the capital-labor ratio are more than twice the values at their neighbors' place. Relying on such a solid base, the farm achieved what is probably the chief thing: there was a sharp increase in the intensity of use of our basic wealth -- the land. The harvest yield for vegetables, for example, on the Soviet Turkmenistany Kolkhoz is more than twice that of its neighbors.

The Soviet Turkmenistany also provides today an incomparably larger mass (2.1 times greater) of various kinds of output, and this, in the final analysis, is the most important thing to which the party orients the rural workers in the resolution of the food-supplies program.

The Soviet Turkmenistany Kolkhoz specializes in the production of the most labor-intensive and capital-intensive output: it produces vegetables, a considerable quantity of which comes from the covered ground, and also produces milk. The total value of the fixed assets for these two branches alone exceed 5 million rubles on the farm. The concomitant branches are the growing of melon crops, fruits, and grapes, the fattening of cattle, and the growing of sheep. The farm has a hog farm and a poultry farm. The kolkhoz's fixed production assets have reached 16 million rubles. All the branches of the farm have a well-adjusted and complete technological cycle.

The hothouse complex, for example, under local conditions when the vegetable-growers have time to complete only one turnover, is a production that is known to be of little effectiveness. But the kolkhoz nevertheless constructed hothouses in order to provide the city with vegetables during the winter, and the profitability of the structures was increased by forcing the seedlings in the hothouses: the early vegetables which subsequently were produced in the open ground constitute one of the most substantial items in the kolkhoz's income.

And one could cite many such examples. Recently the farm started up a dairy complex for 800 cows. The capacities are only being assimilated, but the milk production is already profitable, because livestock with good breeding lines were selected and the kolkhoz has reinforced its fodder base.

The kolkhoz animal husbandrymen have not been overlooking an additional very important reserve -- the increase in the sale price of the output by improving its quality. For example, 96 percent of the milk sold by the farm is Grade 1; of 997 quintals of beef, 800 quintals were sold with increased degree of fatness; of 2,506 quintals of pork, 2,364 quintals were sold in Category 1. The sale alone of animal-husbandry products of higher quality brought 2,249,000 rubles into the kolkhoz cashbox last year.

Of course, the kolkhoz also has unresolved problems. Suffice it to state that more than 2 million rubles are not working on the farm every year, but, instead, just "lie around" like a kind of "dead capital." This is the money that has been frozen by "dolgostroy" [long-term construction]. It is necessary to state flatly: if the construction workers had been more efficient, the kolkhoz, when assimilating the projects that had been turned over promptly, would not have allowed this reduction -- a reduction of 9 percent -- in the return on the fixed assets, and would have been run in an even more profitable manner.

The Kolkhoz imeni Makhtumkuli also produces commercial vegetable output. Unlike its neighbor, it is part of the Semprom system, and specializes in shipments of seeds for grain crops and vegetable and melon crops. In addition, dairy animal husbandry and sheep-growing have become important branches; the farm has an orchard and vineyard, a hog farm, and a poultry farm. There are also the conditions for more effective work, but the farm long ago occupied a steady position among the laggards. And the principal reason for that is because, for a long time, it developed without any systems approach.

It is well known, for example, that among all branches of agricultural production, seed growing is one of the most profitable. And at first it did provide a tangible return here. But the volumes increased, and increased demands were made on the quality of the work in the branch. But the farm failed to react to those changes, and failed to invest the necessary means in the development of the material-technical base of seed production. There was a reduction in the seed yield. The rather weak seed point failed to cope with their cleaning and processing, and there was a sharp increase in the share of manual labor. The branch changed from a profitable one into one that was operating at a loss.

The farm's economic service failed to notice promptly the complexity of the situation. The annual reports indicate that the kolkhoz, for a period of five years, had been intensively investing money into dairy animal husbandry. But how? The value of the productive livestock, for example, during that period, with an overall increase in fixed production assets of 66 percent, increased by 84 percent. Well, in principle that was the correct step, since good livestock means that the ruble invested in it is "working" well. But that is only if one proviso is necessarily met: if that livestock is completely provided with fodders, with a consideration of its potential productivity, which, for pure-bred animals, is high, and, consequently, requires absolutely complete rations. But no concern was shown there for fodder production. It was left at its previous low level. And so, despite an increase in the number of head of livestock, the milk yields, which had even so been none too rich, dropped, as did the weights of the animals that had been fattened up.

Incidentally, that is not surprising. Although the kolkhoz's fixed production assets during the five-year plan alone increased by a factor of 1.7, because of the uncomprehensive, poorly thought-out investment of funds, the extent of production supply at not a single one of the branches of the farm currently guarantees what could be considered effective, or simply normal, work. The gross income of the farm increased by only 14 percent, and the net income even dropped by 229,000 rubles. There was a drop in the labor productivity, whereas the payment for the labor grew by 36 percent. The kolkhoz already owed Gosbank more than 2 million rubles.

Without removing the blame from the kolkhoz's specialists and managers, it must be said that the difficult economic situation in which the kolkhoz found itself was complicated not without the participation of the oblas' organizations. From year to year they assigned a poorly thought-out and contradictory program that was oriented variously at the production of seeds, or at the production of vegetables, or at the development of animal husbandry, and the fulfillment of that program was required at any price. And so the result is that the kolkhoz's branch structure currently fails completely to conform to its basic production purpose -- the seed-production purpose. Other farms also suffer from instructions that are issued in an unsystematic manner.

And if, in this situation, the Sovet Turkmenistany has nevertheless succeeded in correctly managing its funds and has been steadily increasing its mass and quality of output, right next to it, behind an outwardly favorable figure for return on investment, another farm has taken an irreversible turn downward.

One could fail to see this only in a situation of an overall low level of economic work. On the Kolkhoz imeni Makhtumkuli there has not yet been any introduction even of intrafarm cost accounting [khozraschet], just as it does not exist, incidentally, on many other farms in the republic.

Then too, the Kolkhoz imeni Makhtumkuli, like the Sovet Turkmenistany, is situated in the Gyaruskaya Valley, which recently was completely without water. Now, however, a powerful agricultural complex is being intensively formed here, and that complex is supposed to become the standard for the assimilation of new land in the zone of the Karakum Canal. The state has been investing into the development of production on those lands tremendous amounts of money, and therefore every ruble and the return on it must be specially accounted for, and must be monitored both from the bottom and from the top.

5075

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REGIONAL

RSFSR SEL'KHOZTEKHNIKA CHIEF ON MACHINERY REPAIR BRIGADES

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jan 82 p 1

[Article: "A Trouble-Shooter Arrived at the Farm." Follow-up to article in IZVESTIYA, 29 Dec 81 p 2 published in JPRS Report 80045]

/Text/ An article concerning the operational experience of the Orlovskiy Rayon specialized brigade for the technical servicing of animal husbandry farms and complexes was published in Issue No. 303 of our newspaper, in late December of last year, under the title "A Trouble-Shooter Arrived At the Farm." The deputy editor of the newspaper IZVESTIYA, for the Department of Socialist Competitions and the Publicizing of Leading Experience, A. Koptsov, met with the chairman of the State Committee of the RSFSR for production-technical support for Agriculture, N.V. Bosenko, and requested him to discuss the dissemination of this new form for providing technical services for animal husbandry.

The subunits of RSFSR Goskonsel'khoztekhnika were prepared for this important work. Fifteen hundred specialized stations have already been created for servicing the equipment at animal husbandry farms. And more and more of this equipment is appearing with each passing year. Today the heavy manual labor performed by milkmaids and herdsmen has been replaced by 230,000 milking units, 159,000 feed distributors, 290,000 conveyer lines for the cleaning of facilities, 40,000 refrigeration units and 146,000 steam-generating boilers. The efficient utilization of this powerful technical potential is greatly dependent upon our activity.

The specialized stations have at their disposal 9,000 mobile workshops and 50,000 skilled expert trouble-shooters, technicians and engineers. During the past 3 years, the readiness of the principal technological equipment at the farms was 96 percent prior to the commencement of the livestock wintering period and this served to ensure reliable operation of the equipment. Thus, our expert trouble-shooters were in large measure responsible for the fact that last year the farms succeeded in increasing their sales of 1st class milk to the state to 70 percent, compared to only 43 percent in 1976.

And now -- concerning our specialized brigades for providing services for animal husbandry. One such brigade has been discussed in detail on the pages of IZVESTIYA.

It should be emphasized: the specialized brigades make it possible to service large animal husbandry enterprises and to create all-round crews or sections for

assignment to specific farms. The crews and sections of specialized brigades are located permanently at large farms and complexes. Moreover, jointly with the engineering services at these farms, they bear complete responsibility for the continuous operation of all equipment. The best conditions are created in such specialized brigades for ensuring material interest by its workers in the final results of the animal husbandry farms served.

At the present time, 196 specialized brigades have already been created -- in the Tatarskaya ASSR and in Orlovskaya, Belgorodskaya, Vladimirskaya, Kurganskaya, Rostovskaya and other oblasts. The leaders and specialists of kolkhozes and sovkhoses and workers attached to agricultural organs have placed a high value on the work being performed by the specialized brigades, considering this to be a very promising trend. Allow me to cite several letters:

"This method for providing services successfully combines the interests of a farm and Sel'khoztekhnika" wrote the chief of the Suzdal' Animal Husbandry Complex in Vladimirskaya Oblast, K. Gorbunov, "The high technical readiness and reliability of the mechanisms are promoting improved productivity in the animals and the daily weight increases of the large-horned cattle have been raised to 940 grams."

"The creation of specialized brigades" wrote the chief of the Agricultural Administration of the Nizhnekamskiy Rayon Executive Committee in the Tatarskaya ASSR F. Sabitov, "has brought about positive qualitative changes both in the work of raysel'khoztekhnika itself and on farms throughout the rayon. The planned servicing of the farm equipment has raised its reliability and increased the normative service life of the mechanisms."

"Our specialized brigade is performing in a fine manner, such that even the most fault-finding leaders of sovkhoses are unable to find anything to complain about" commented the 1st secretary of the Khabarovskiy Rayon Party Committee V. Mogila, "The animal husbandrymen on the farms are satisfied."

This progressive form for providing technical services for the farms has received the recognition of many soviet and party organs: proposals for creating new specialized brigades have been received in Goskomsel'khoztekhnika for the RSFSR.

The expert trouble-shooters in Moscow Oblast have rejected the old methods for providing technical services. The specialists of oblsel'khoztekhnika and the Main Agricultural Production Administration of Mosoblispolkom /Executive Committee of the Moscow Oblast Soviet of Workers' Deputies/ developed a basically new structure for their operations using electronic computers. Powerful stations for providing technical services from a good production base have been created in each rural rayon. Approximately 2,700 workers and engineering-technical workers are working at these facilities. Multipurpose brigades of the technical servicing stations of raysel'khoztekhnika have been assigned on a permanent basis to 341 farms. Support points of Sel'khoztekhnika have been created on many farms where, in addition to instruments and equipment, there is also an optimum supply of units, assemblies and materials.

Nevertheless, it must be stated that many problems associated with improving engineering services for animal husbandry exceed the limits of responsibility of RSFSR Goskomsel'khoztekhnika. Earlier, the planning organs satisfied the

requirements of the farms and complexes for pipe, rolled ferrous metals, cable and electric motor wiring by only 15-30 percent. Special concern must be shown for the large animal husbandry complexes. RSFSR Goskomsel'khoztekhnika has accepted a majority of them for technical servicing. Yet it is impossible to introduce, in full volume, a planned preventive system of technical services.

RSFSR Goskomsel'khoztekhnika, jointly with the republic's Ministry of Agriculture, is presently furnishing assistance to the animal husbandrymen in successfully carrying out their livestock wintering operations. There are presently 44,000 feed preparation shops and kitchens in operation at kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Operational control has been established over the technical status of other mechanization equipment in animal husbandry. More than 5,000 special mobile brigades have been formed for the purpose of eliminating break-downs and carrying out the planned-preventive servicing of mechanisms.

In a speech delivered before the November (1981) Plenum of the CC CPSU, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev pointed out that the uninterrupted supply of high quality food products for the nation requires good work on the part of both agriculture and the branches which service it. The workers attached to RSFSR Goskomsel'khoztekhnika are doing everything possible to improve the engineering support for animal husbandry and for all agricultural production.

7026

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REGIONAL

NEW ACCOUNTING SYSTEM TO CHECK WASTEFUL FARM INPUTS

Frunze SOVETSKAYA KIRGIZIYA in Russian 16 Jan 82 p 2

[Article by K. Umuraliyev, candidate of economic sciences, director of the Center for Scientific Organization of Labor of the Kirghiz Ministry of Agriculture: "The Coupon System: Who Is for It, and Who Is against It?"]

[Text] The corn-raising team of N. Didenko from the Rossiya Kolkhoz worked outstandingly all summer. It raised the highest yield in Moskovskiy Rayon and overfulfilled its plan by 50 percent.

The members of the team received due praise. They were declared winners in socialist competition and spoken of at meetings. Newspapers published the story of their work practices.

But when the kolkhoz members received the final accounting at the year, our heroes no longer felt like heroes. For their work they received the same pay as others who had just barely fulfilled the plan and had not worked nearly as hard. The accounting office explained to them, "You have expenditures significantly beyond your cost accounting assignment." "Where are the overexpenditures?" the team leader asked in surprise. "They are here, and here."

What had happened? In the spring the team, as well as the brigade in which it works, were given a cost accounting assignment. It provided for everything: how much labor, fertilizer, and other means should be expended to produce the output. But how much actually was expended? Neither the brigade leader nor the team leader kept track of this. Their only thought was for what needed to be done to get a good harvest. Three or four times during the summer kolkhoz economists analyzed performance of the cost accounting assignment. Of course, it was a fairly crude analysis. And only at the end of the year did they calculate exactly how much had been received and how much was spent to get it.

Did the team spend too much? Perhaps it did, and perhaps it did not. For the total expenditures of the brigade were then divided for all its subdivisions, and the corn growers ultimately found themselves accountable for fertilizer that spoiled in the warehouse because of careless storage and for fuel that was not pumped into the gas truck at the filling station.

Internal cost accounting has been used for several years now at many farms. But the lack of a proper system of accounting and monitoring at many of them, as in the above example, precludes the possibility of prompt analysis of expenditure of material and monetary capital for production. This diminishes the importance of cost accounting. In practice only three people monitor compliance with planned expenditures: the bookkeeper, the economist, and the farm manager, and as we have seen they are very slow. These delayed calculations do not give the farm collective any incentive to struggle to reduce the prime cost of output.

The "check" ["chek" — receipt coupon] form of mutual accounting makes it possible to increase the economic efficiency of production and improve relations among subdivisions of a farm as well as within them. Under this system the economic accountability assignments themselves are worked out more correctly and accurately. And the managers of the subdivisions themselves monitor performance of the assignments daily.

How does this look in practice?

The manager of a cost accounting collective receives these coupons together with the assignments. Using specially developed rate scales he writes up receipts for everything, fuel, fertilizer, seeds, and the like and services, showing from whom it was received and the price. So you can be sure that the brigade leader will not accept, for example, seeds without knowing the exact weight, and the team leader will carefully figure the cost of spare parts delivered and will refuse "outside" help, knowing what it costs.

By using a receipt register it is simple and easy for each subdivision manager to figure actual expenditures, compare them with planned expenditures, and make an economic analysis without waiting for results from the central accounting office. Then he can take operational steps to prevent overexpenditure of planned capital and receive more output with lower inputs. All rural workers have a greater interest in the final results of labor, in better economic indicators. This is especially true if we consider that one-fourth of the material-monetary expenditures saved in plant growing and 40 percent in animal husbandry are given to the collectives. But when there is an overexpenditure, half of the additional pay and bonuses due to the workers is withheld. Incidentally, this is the money that was subtracted from the earnings of the corn growers mentioned at the beginning of the article. They could only be found "guilty without guilt" under their system of accounting or, more accurately, the lack of a system to monitor execution of the cost accounting assignment. And to be blunt, they paid out of their own pocket for the poor work of the economic service. But with the coupon form of mutual accounts this is impossible.

The division for introduction of internal cost accounting of the Center for Scientific Organization of Labor of the Republic Ministry of Agriculture worked out a model statute and helped implement the coupon system at 70 farms in the republic. In those places where the farm managers and economists took a conscientious attitude toward it, positive changes in production activity were not long in coming.

For example, let us take the Kolkhoz imeni Lenin in Tonskiy Rayon, where the economic service works very well. The coupons are filled out and torn off at the proper time, and all expenditures are entered in the savings register. The bureau of economic analysis meets regularly. As a result, during the very first year of work under the new system the first sheep raising unit saved 133,000 rubles, the horse unit saved about 70,000, the tractor brigade saved 19,000, and 40,000 rubles were saved at the garage.

This farm and other farms in Tonskiy Rayon which had introduced the coupon system of mutual accounts — the Kolkhoz imeni XXII Part's"yezda and the Kolkhoz imeni 50-Letiya Komsomola Kirgizii — raised net profit from 25,000 to 203,000 rubles in the first year of its use. The total economic impact in the rayon from the coupon system was about 2 million rubles, while expenditures to introduce it in Issyk-Kul'skaya Oblast as a whole were just 27,300 rubles.

Many such examples could be given. But despite the obvious effectiveness of the coupon system, many farms prefer to get along without it. The result? While the prime cost of crop and livestock output at these farms in Tonskiy Rayon is declining according to plan, at the Kolkhoz imeni Karl Marx where the coupons have not been introduced, the prime cost of wool, meat, milk, and grain is steadily rising.

Why did the economists at the Kolkhoz imeni Karl Marx not like cost accounting with the coupon monitoring system? There are many reasons. They say that mutual accounts are too complex and the brigade and team leaders do not have time to fill out and keep records of incoming material-technical assets.

But here is what is behind these excuses. Cost accounting with the coupon monitoring system can be introduced and used efficiently where the farm managers and specialists have respect for the economic service and understand its role in management. The employees of the "economic shops" are themselves well educated, knowledgeable, and enterprising people. Contemporary forms of economic management demand a new style of work. But does the level of education and energy among specialists meet the requirements of current production everywhere?

Introduction of the coupon system is continuing. That is natural, for it is a natural continuation of the development and refinement of cost accounting.

11.176

CSO: 1800/213

REGIONAL

GEORGIAN TRADE UNIONS STRESS WORKING CONDITIONS, WORKERS' RIGHTS

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 12 Jan 82 p 2

[Article by I. Nodashkovskaya and R. Peradze: "A Powerful Force"]

[Excerpts] L. I. Brezhnev's book, "Sovetskiye Profsoyuzy v Usloviyakh Razvitogo Sotsializma" [Soviet Trade Unions Under the Conditions of Developed Socialism], was recently published. Urgent questions concerning the activity of the trade unions in the task of constructing communism are examined in L. I. Brezhnev's reports, speeches, addresses, and greetings -- which compose this collection either in full or extracted form -- in close correlation with Leninist teachings on the leading role of the working class within the system of socialist public relationships, on the unbreakable friendship of the working class and kolkhoz peasantry, and on the growing role of the CPSU as the leading and directing force.

The creation of a developed socialist society has posed in a new way a number of very important tasks for its further economic, social, political and spiritual development. The profound reorientation of many aspects of the practical work of the party, soviets, and public organizations -- which has taken place in connection with this -- also fully pertains to the trade unions, one of whose main features is the fact that they -- as one of the most important links in socialist democracy -- are directly participating during their struggle for the workers' interests in the raising of production, the improvement of its effectiveness, and the control of the national economy.

During his speech at the November 1981 CPSU Central Committee Plenum, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev mentioned the plenary 17th Congress of USSR Trade Unions among the important political events with which 1982 will be filled. Republic trade union congresses are preceding it. The 17th Georgian Trade Union Congress will be held in January. The special coloring and tone of the recently completed campaigns to hear reports and elect officials in trade union organizations having been reported, the preparations for it are now being broadly expanded throughout the republic.

The tasks of the trade union organizations to use production reserves and capabilities better and improve the political and work activity of production collectives in carrying out the historic decisions of the 26th party congress and the November 1981 CPSU Central Committee Plenum are at the center of the discussions taking place at the round table.

A word for the round table participants.

G. Bakhtadze

A lot of attention is devoted in L. I. Brezhnev's works, which are included in the collection, to the creation of the new Constitution of the USSR. The legal position of our country's trade unions is defined by it and the social, political and economic basis of their activity is legally confirmed.

The book's material clearly shows how the new Constitution of the USSR raised the role and responsibility of trade unions. The right to work is guaranteed by the basic law of our state. Its content has been expanded, and it now includes not only the right to any work but to work with payment for work depending on its amount and quality but no lower than the minimum prescribed by the state. It also includes the right to select a trade, kind of studies and work in accordance with one's vocation, abilities, professional training, and education considering public needs.

It is natural that the significant expansion of the labor rights of workers and employees has evoked the need to broaden the rights and duties of the trade unions. In participating in the regulation of labor relations, the trade union organs adopt normative acts, whose effectiveness is guaranteed by the Constitution of the USSR. In particular, the "Statute on the Legal Inspection of Labor", which was approved by the AUCCTU presidium is related to them. The creation of this inspection widened the control opportunities of trade unions, and it has acquired special significance in the struggle against negative phenomena which was expanded in the republic after the adoption of the CPSU Central Committee decree for the Tbilisskiy party gorkom.

The intense attention of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee toward strict observance of the rights of citizens, which are guaranteed by the Constitution of the USSR, has simplified the realization of trade union control functions. Noticeable positive changes for the better were the result of this. Whereas Georgia occupied one of the first places among the union republics--based on the number of illegal dismissals -- before the adoption of the decree for the Tbilisskiy party gorkom, the curve of such dismissals has irreversibly gone down during the last five years and we will come to the 17th Georgian Trade Union Congress with a fourfold decrease in them.

In the activity of the republic's trade unions, a special place is devoted to the struggle against personnel turnover which inflicts considerable damage on the national economy. In this respect, the trade unions proceed from the fundamental

proposition that not only illegal but also fully legal dismissals must force both trade union and economic leaders to think seriously about whether errors are being committed in providing normal working conditions in the enterprise entrusted to them and what the true causes are which push a worker to dismissal. An analysis of our practices shows that where the administration is demanding, especially on itself, and where good working and living conditions are created for the collective, there, labor discipline is also high. Workers do not leave such enterprises. As the old saw says: "Let well enough alone"....

Z. Mekvabishvili

Here is what Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev's book says regarding this: "Concern for the development of the national economy and for raising production and concern for the rights and interests of the workers and for their working and living conditions -- this is the dual task of trade unions. It is dual since the growth and qualitative improvement of the economy is the direct and true path to improving the living conditions of a working man, his family, and all citizens". This principle must become the basic one not only in the activity of trade unions but also in the administration of enterprises.

G. Bakhtadze

Undoubtedly. Remembering that the socialist system of management implies a correct organization -- based on the law -- of the production process, the republic's trade unions are exercising control so that production plans are fulfilled and overfulfilled with a strict observance of the work rights of Soviet citizens. Increased attention on this was, for example, displayed by the Georgian trade union council in the formation of a commission, attached to it, for defending the workers' and employees' constitutional work rights. The commission regularly reviews specific cases of violations by economic leaders of labor laws and takes steps to eliminate and prevent them. The presidium of the Georgian trade union council and the presidiums of the branch trade union committees -- either themselves or jointly with the collectives of ministries -- discuss materials on the state of observing labor laws in the ministry and department system. Questions are studied in coordination with party and soviet organs and with court and procurator organs. The presidium of the Georgian trade union council recently discussed the question of the observance of work time policy in the republic's enterprises. It turned out that workers were enlisted in overtime work in the Rustavskiy Metallurgical Plant, Tbilisskoye ATP [Motor Vehicle Transport Enterprise] No. 1 and No. 8, Motor Vehicle Column No. 2651, Kutaiskoye Cargo ATP No. 4, the Rustavskiy Cement Plant, and the Tbilisskoye Silk Association. They are grossly violating labor laws by this. The leaders of these enterprises have been sternly warned that, if the necessary measures are not adopted by them to eliminate the overtime work, the material on their responsibility will be turned over to administrative organs.

It is necessary to say that the laws on work time policy are violated most frequently of all when the enterprise leadership is not able to cope with wasted time and absenteeism and cannot establish strict state and labor discipline. As Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev points out, here the daily active participation of trade

union organizations in all the multifaceted economic and cultural life of the collective acquires extremely important significance. I think that you, Zurab Shalvovich, have something to say about this from the example of your enterprise.

2. Mekvabishvili

During the 26th CPSU Congress and the November 1981 Central Committee Plenum, the party proposed first and foremost the task of improving the material and cultural level of the people's life. Its program slogan: Everything in the name of the individual, everything for the good of the individual, is being embodied in practical tasks.

When studying Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev's book, you note what enormous attention has been devoted by him in it to the solution of tasks directly connected with improving the life of the people. Here-- Leonid Il'ich emphasizes -- is the most important sphere of trade union activity. It is the improvement of the people's living and working conditions, the concern for their health and rest.

It was figuratively said during the 26th Congress of the Georgian Communist Party that the 10th Five-Year Plan was decorated with the Order of the Red Banner in the republic. This will justifiably be said also regarding our Tbilisskiy Construction Materials Combine. During the 10th Five-Year Plan, the temporary Red Banner of the USSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry and of the branch trade union was awarded to the combine for the 21st time.

The progressive movement of our collective can be judged from these figures. During the 10th Five-Year Plan, we produced 3,605,000 rubles of commodity production a year, and during the 11th -- 6,642,000. This period has been characterized by a growth in labor productivity which reached 54.4 percent by the end of 1980. A considerable increase in average wages was a result of the collective's economic and social development. Whereas it was 184 rubles in 1975, it has grown to 208 rubles today. During the years of the last five-year plan, 643,000 rubles alone were paid to workers as bonuses which stimulate highly productive labor. The fact that the output of products worthy of the honorary pentagon increased fifteen-fold in comparison with the 9th Five-Year Plan testifies also to the increase in production efficiency. It reached 27.8 percent overall.

Of course, the coordination of the actions of the economic leadership and of the party, trade union and Komsomol organizations played the main role in the successes of the combine's collective. However, it is not possible to belittle the large amount of work which the enterprise trade union committee performed through the commission to protect labor.

Our attention was directed to the exposure of harmful work conditions. For this purpose, we established contacts with the workers in the republic and rayon medical and epidemiological station. They conducted thorough research on the level of noise, vibrations, lighting and temperature at work positions and gave recommendations. After their implementation, the statisticians of our commission for social insurance fixed a sharp decrease in various cattarrhal cases. Today, professional illnesses have been completely excluded in the combine. Since 1976

the enterprise collective has invariably been victorious in the competition contest: "For High Standards and Exemplary Production Discipline"; and during the past year, it was awarded the certificate and pennant of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers and the republic's Trade Union Council for its victory in the contest for the title "An Enterprise of High Production Standards and Work Safety". Here, I would like to stop on this characteristic conformity to law. The concern for the protection of the collective's labor and way of life is enlisting ever newer members in the work of controlling production. These tasks are becoming their own vital work for the people. The enterprises successes are based on this to a large degree.

N. Chkhaidze

This is true. Here is our brigade, which Roman Murvanidze leads, manufacturing flooring, frames and packing for electric bogies. Seemingly the work is not complicated, but it requires high conscientiousness and -- I would say -- a state approach. You see, the electric bogies of the Batumskiy Electromechanical Plant are sent to all ends of our country as well as to many countries of Europe, Asia and Africa. If the packaging is bad, one can imagine in what shape the items will arrive.

This is already the seventh year that our brigade, which is a collective of communist labor, has elected me to be the trade union group organizer. Of course, it increases work for me. It is necessary to direct the socialist competition in the trade union group, achieve an increase in the effectiveness and quality of each brigade member's work, and not lose sight of questions concerning the indoctrination of the people. Such a circle of duties can only be managed with the support of the aktiv.

It happens that some trade union organizers complain that they cannot make their aktiv work effectively. They explain this by the fact that each one has his own concerns. I am confident that the trouble there is something else. It is the violation of the principle of the unity of political and economic work in the trade union group. This principle has been clearly formulated in Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev's book, "Soviet Trade Unions Under the Conditions of Developed Socialism". The weakening of one of the aspects in this work unavoidably leads to the passivity of the trade union group members. Here is how others complain of a certain exclusive circle. The trade union active is inactive; therefore, the trade union work is poor -- and it, in its turn is poor because the trade union aktiv is inactive. I found corroboration for many of my thoughts in Leonid Il'ich's book, and it taught me a lot: a detailed analysis, a wide-ranging look at seemingly habitual things. I would like to say more about this. It often happens that the trade union committees of enterprises yearn to solve questions themselves. However, they, of course, do not have it within their power to embrace everything that the life of the production collective gives birth to every day. This weakens their ties with and their leadership of the shop trade union organizations and trade union groups. It is necessary to load the lower trade union links more with lively non-regulated work.

During the 26th CPSU Congress, Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev said: "It is also necessary to intensify further the control of the trade unions and of work collectives over the solution of all questions concerning the work, life, customs and mores of the people, to expand their participation in the planning and direction of production, in the selection and assignment of personnel and in the effective use of the resources of enterprises and organizations". The work in this direction is now the main thing for us. The plans of 1982 and of the 11th-Five-Year Plan must on the whole not only be fulfilled but also overfulfilled.

The editors organized the round table.

8802

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REGIONAL

FARMS HURT BY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITH SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Service Organizations Exploit Farms

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Dec 81 p 2

[Article by I. Zuyev, brigade leader of "Klimshchinskiy" Sovkhoz, Pochinkovskiy Rayon, Smolensk Oblast "The Village and its Partners"]

[Excerpts] Certainly, we have plenty of partners. But whether we are harnessed together as a team is something that bears some thought. They repair a tractor or combine, but at times it cannot go beyond the entrance of the workshop under its own power. They drain a meadow so that grass does not grow on it. They build a cow-shed, but do not consider whether modern machinery can be installed in it. On the other hand, money is collected accurately. Our partners are strengthened, but many farms are up to their ears in debt. How long will this continue? Ten years ago our sovkhaz, lean and poor, made 200,000 rubles profit. Today it has up to a half million in losses. It is true that we have some negligence here. But the main thing is that the cost of various types of services has increased. And even more, the losses in production from lack of coordination with the partners have increased.

And here arises the question: how can we more closely coordinate the partners in agricultural production? How can we harness ourselves into one team? In order, as my peasant mind tells me, to do our business and serve the rural economy, we must strengthen it. I do not conceal anything: there is much to meditate on.

Here is our sovkhaz. We have 150 various machines, tens of implements on the farms. We cannot get along without electrical machinists and adjusters. Today there are many of them, as I said earlier, in the rayon center. They come on call. But shouldn't a large scale maintenance base be created in the field? No matter even if we had to accommodate their foremen, too. If something in the cow barn breaks down it isn't right to have to wait until the machine servicer "of the new type" arrives from the rayon center. In the best cases this takes a half day. But on weekends or holidays, it may take two or three days. But a cow must be milked three times a day...

The Goskomsel'khoshtekhnika is being strengthened in rayon and oblast centers. At its feet, far from the fields, is also being built a base of "Soyuzsel'khoskhimiya". As if grain were actually to be grown on the asphalt. Neither of these organizations

bear responsibility for the harvest. The chemical people spread lime on 200 hectares of plowed fields. They apparently finished the work, but we received no noticeable return from it. But to a contractor, that makes no difference. He received full payment -- and a goodly amount at that -- from the sovkhos.

The other partners conduct themselves in almost the same manner. The purchasers and treatment people also establish their bases a long distance from the fields, and strive to bolster their well-being at our expense. The purchase of flax, milk and meat are conducted in such a manner that they make a profit and the farms take a loss. We are not opposed to paying for services. But actual assistance must be rendered. Everyone should work for the final result. The well-being of all should depend on the productivity of the fields and farms. But what do we actually have? A lot of scurrying about by everyone, but still a shortage of milk and meat.

I am very glad that these questions were sharply posed at the November Plenum of the CPSU CC. From my very soul I support the words of Comrade L. I. Brezhnev: "We must create those conditions which will more vigorously stimulate the growth and an increase in the intensity of agricultural production; which reward the initiative of kolkhozes and sovkhoses, and all other echelons of the agro-industrial complex; which force them to work not toward intermediate indices, but rather, toward a high final result."

And here, it seems, is the most important thing -- to go about this matter in such a manner as not to weaken but rather to strengthen the basic link of the complex -- agriculture. Take those very technical services for maintenance of machinery. Must they always be located in cities; would it not be better to develop them in the rural areas? There would arise in the countryside a modern technical base, it would increase, as they say, an industrial stratum of workers, working in the main sectors of production. Moreover, the choice of a profession would be wider...

Rayon Unified Administration Needed

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Dec 81 p 2

[Article by V. Burchik, first secretary of the Shchigrovsk Party Raykom, Kursk Oblast: "In Ten Channels -- Field-plant: A Single Complex]

[Text] Serious questions have been raised in his article published recently in PRAVDA by brigade leader I. Zuyev of the Smolensk sovkhos "Klimshchinskiy". Let's take just the question of partners and their disconnection from each other.

Both this disconnection and the damage caused by it are felt particularly keenly at the rayon level. Indeed, it is the basis of the agro-industrial complex being formed in our country. It is right here, in the rayon, that the producers are located, where the manpower is concentrated; and most importantly, it is here that the fate of our plans is decided. The rayon agricultural industrial complex is a living organism, the component parts of which are constantly in interaction.

But today that organism is artificially divided. Just look at how spotty the picture is. The farms are subordinate to various administrations and trusts -- "Skotoprom", "Ptitseprom", and other "proms". They are serviced by 30 various offices. Each of them, naturally, is subordinate to a higher department, the interests of which, as experience, alas, has demonstrated, often do not coincide with the interests of the rayon agricultural industrial complex...

I recall a recent conversation in the field with the chairman of a kolkhoz. Normally reserved and quiet, he was excited: "And they consider this fertilizing! Here there is none, there it is thick. But "Sel'khozkhimiya" takes our money nonetheless. And sometimes for work they don't even perform. And others strive to outsmart the kolkhoz. We have gone some years with losses, but in their offices there are solid profits."

The chairman, perhaps, was not completely fair with respect to the partners. If we look at it objectively, specialized services perform much work, but its effect, I'll say frankly, is not great. This is apparent in the economic indicators. The volume of services and profits of the "para-agricultural" organizations increase not only as in the example of the "Klinshchinskiy" sovkhoz, about which I. Zuyev writes. Total expenditures on the final product increase, while the yield of fields and farms remains low...

As a matter of fact, out of the 20 farms in our rayon, only four are profitable. There are dissentive opinions as to the reasons for the unprofitability. I would remark only that they are associated, first of all, with the high cost of production. And, it would seem, so long as the producers of meat, milk, grain and sugar beets suffer considerable losses, then the financial well-being of their partners should not be bright. But it turns out otherwise. The rayon "Sel'khoztekhnika" association, the meat-packing plant, and many others constantly show a profit, sometimes in the millions. A branch of "Sel'khozkhimiya", which has existed only a year and a half, succeeded in receiving 754,000 rubles in clear profit.

In any other situation we should rejoice that the collectives operate with such economic stability. But, as we see, this economic stability is not consistent with the results of agricultural production.

The way out of this predicament would seem to be simple: deregulate the financial interrelationship between the partners. Suppose that payments for services were reduced. As a result of this would there be less badly repaired tractors? Would "Sel'khozkhimiya" demand payment not only for delivery of fertilizer but also for applying it, although this is supposed to be performed by the kolkhoz itself? The answers to such questions are not as simple as they appear at first glance. The defects in the activities of the organizations in question have their roots.

The fact of the matter is that the economic interests of the farms and their partners are different. The former are responsible for production of agricultural products, the latter only for fulfilling the plan for services rendered. They are not concerned with the final results -- harvests, milk yield, and weight gains.

One can become convinced as to what this leads to by the example of our Shchigrovskiy Rayon. During the 10th Five-Year Plan the capital fund for agriculture increased by 50 percent. The electric power resources of labor increased twofold. However, the rate of growth of the volume of gross output lagged significantly behind the rate of increase of capital investment. It turned out that the agricultural workers of the rayon did not take advantage of the resources allocated to them as they should have. The yields of grain and sugar beets remained in essence at the same level. The situation of our dairy farming is also unsatisfactory to us.

The raykom and the farm party organizations have done much to direct the efforts of the collectives at increasing the efficiency of production. But their success is not so great. And the stumbling block is frequently the economic fragmentation of the partners.

Characteristically, fragmentation and isolation exist also between agricultural enterprises. Here is an example. At the "Shchigrovskiy" poultry sovkhoz questions of reconstruction and construction of production facilities are not being solved satisfactorily; there are no hard-surface roads; and there is a critical housing shortage. We decided to have a detailed look at the situation on the farm. A session of the raykom bureau was devoted to these questions; the director of the oblast trust "Ptitseprom", N. Shustov, was invited. Here it was revealed that this manager thinks only about production of eggs. The more rational utilization of land is not his concern. Social problems are poorly addressed, and cannot be successfully resolved. And indeed capital investment is divided among the trusts. Moreover, N. Shustov is provided only "a drop in the bucket", which he must allocate among several trust farms...

Outwardly the formulation of the rayon agricultural production complex appears to be conducted successfully. The production base of the farms and their partners is being expanded; processing facilities are being built. But capital investments, as we see, are received through the most varied channels. As many administrations, trusts and offices as there are, there are the same number of sources of financial support. All in all, it would appear that last year a not inconsiderable sum, 16 million rubles, was allocated. But at the same time the rayon cannot use this money. And the money is dispersed and spread on all sides. It is spent on countless projects and "mini-projects" on "long-term construction" with decades of tenure.

Even the smallest office strives to have its own base. For example, the supply of electric power to agriculture is provided by several organizations -- the rayon electric system, the "Kommunenergo" and "Sel'elektrostroy" services, and an energy sub-element of "Sel'khoztekhnika" has also been created. In spite of this, interruptions in power supply to farms are still frequent occurrences. There are installations alongside the farms, separated only by a fence, every one of which has on its own premises a power plant, workshops and administrative buildings. Would it not be reasonable to establish a unified electric supply service?

Moreover, these organizations strive to procreate numerous supplementary sub-elements. "Sel'khoztekhnika" for example, has four; the rayon association, a special section for repair of tractors, a mobile farm mechanization column, and a start-up adjustment unit. And all of them are allocated not inconsiderable funds. They are located, naturally, not in the countryside, but in the city, inasmuch as the offices settled in Shchigry.

Incidentally, of the 16 million rubles a significant portion has not been allocated at all to the kolkhozes and sovkhoses -- the basic producers of agricultural products -- but to their partners. And they have built nothing noticeable or important. One office was allocated several thousand rubles. Millions are spent on trifles! And we have so few good roads, such a shortage of housing with modern conveniences!

But rayon organizations cannot become involved in this process; cannot redistribute resources. Frequently we are informed only of the construction of some building or other. For example, on one occasion the oblast administration of the milk industry decided to build a plant to produce non-fat powdered milk. It was supposed to process 110 tons of raw milk per shift. But with insignificant reconstruction of our dairy plant it could have completely coped with this production. The estimated cost of the new plant was more than 6 million rubles, and it has been under construction seven years. As of now it has not been decided where the raw milk will come from. Shall they transport it several score kilometers from other rayons? There is no better solution. Our principal building contractor organization -- PMK-720 of the "Kursksel'stroy" Trust -- has been engaged in this construction. Meanwhile, construction of several important buildings in our villages has come almost to a standstill.

Inasmuch as the rayon has no single organ of management of the agricultural industrial complex, it has fallen involuntarily to the party raykom and the rayispolkom to regulate the interrelationship of the partners. But their efforts to regulate the use of capital investments and to prevent their dissipation are not always successful.

It is my opinion that the rayon agricultural industrial complex should be managed by a single management organ. It would allocate all resources provided by the state to kolkhozes, sovkhoses and service and processing enterprises. What it is called -- either agricultural industrial association or something else -- is not, it seems, very important. The main thing is that it become the single authority and common master on the land; that it combine the overall responsibility of all the organizations which today answer only for fulfillment of individual operations, and not for the final product. Where to give priority in applying investments, how to realize them in the very shortest period -- these questions would be constantly at the center of attention of the agricultural industrial association.

Such services as "Sel'khoztekhnika" and "Sel'khozkhimiya" must, both from an organizational and economic standpoint, be included in the association, and equally with the farmers and livestock breeders bear responsibility for harvests, milk production and weight gains.

I know that in some rayons in the Baltic area and in Georgia such associations are operating successfully.

I would like to become more familiar with details of the experience of their work, and with the results of these interesting experiments.

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REGIONAL

INVESTMENT, RIVER DIVERSION SOUGHT FOR CENTRAL ASIA

Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 27 Dec 81 p 3

[Article by chairman of the Council for Study of Productive Forces of the republic Academy of Sciences and academician of the Uzbek SSR Academy of Sciences S. Ziyadullayev in the column "An Urgent Problem": "Siberian River Water is Needed"]

[Text] In our republic, as indeed in the other Central Asian republics situated in an arid zone with an extremely droughty continental climate and negligible precipitation (especially in the summer), intensive agriculture is impossible without artificial watering, i.e., without irrigation and land reclamation. No wonder there is an Uzbek folk saying: "Where there is water, life begins." However, before the victory of the October Revolution irrigated farming was extremely backward and primitive. The great Lenin who believed that only irrigation could transform the region originated a new stage in the development of Central Asian irrigation.

Today, in terms of scope and experience, Uzbekistan holds the lead in the construction of irrigation systems and the development of irrigated farming not only in the region but in the country as well. The Golodnaya and Karshinskaya steppes have been brought to life and have bloomed in a brief period. Hydroeconomic construction has reached enormous proportions, especially over the last 15-20 years. Each year the republic is bringing more than 100,000 hectares of new irrigated land under cultivation. In terms of its dynamism and agricultural growth rate, our republic is one of the foremost in the country. This is the result of faithful implementation of party and government resolutions, the result of selfless labor of the workers, kolkhozniks and agricultural specialists and the result of the efficient practice of irrigated farming which is achieving large, uniform and guaranteed harvests.

Every year the Uzbekistan workers achieve higher growth indicators in the production of cotton and other crops, precisely as a result of efficient agricultural management at a modern scientific and technical level and of the successful opening of new irrigated tracts.

From this it follows that it will be necessary from now on to expand the development of irrigated farming on which implementation of the food provision program depends to a significant degree.

As a result of the present agrarian policy of the party and the union-wide specialization of agricultural production, 90 percent of all the All-Union production of cotton, 100 percent of ambary, 78 percent of silk cocoons, 60 percent of astrakhan lambskins,

20 percent of rice (with Kazakhstan included--40 percent) and a significant amount of the vegetables, cucurbits, fruit and grapes are now concentrated in the Central Asian republics where only 9 percent of the country's population lives. Systematically increasing production and supplying the main bulk of such valuable crops as cotton, silk, cocoons, karakul sheep and more to the All-Union fund, the region's workers are worthily fulfilling their international obligation to the country.

As a result of implementation of the Lenin industrialization policy, the region's industry occupies a leading place in the all-union division of labor. Here 100 percent of the all-union production of cotton picking machines, cotton-processing tractors, tractors for sowing and cultivating and other machines for the complete mechanization of cotton raising are concentrated, 90 percent of the production of cotton gins and cotton thread, 25 percent of the spinning machinery and 20 percent of vegetable oil. More than 30 percent of the natural gas is extracted in our region. Coal, oil, copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver, tungsten, molybdenum and other vitally important raw materials are also mined here.

The potential resources and natural wealth of Uzbekistan and all of Central Asia are, indeed, immense for further vigorous development of productive forces. First, there are high growth rates of the population and labor force, three times greater than the all-union indicators. Second, our region possesses rich mineral and raw material resources. Third, the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan have huge land resources available for subsequent vigorous development of irrigated farming and agriculture. In Uzbekistan alone there are nearly 16 million hectares suitable for land development as compared with 4 million hectares presently under cultivation. With water available these barren tracts would become an important resource for further growth in agricultural production.

Therefore, increasingly excellent future prospects are being opened up to the Central Asian republics which have sufficient labor, mineral and raw material and land resources. But there are insufficient water resources for converting these potentials to actuality. Specialists believe that at the current rate of new irrigated land development the water resources of the main rivers, the Amudar'ya and Syrdar'ya, will be completely exhausted in the near future while a scarcity will be felt in many regions by the 12th Five-Year Plan. Also noteworthy are a lowering of the Aral Sea level and increased salinization of the irrigation water in the lower reaches of the Amudar'ya and Syrdar'ya. The danger of pronounced salinity is increasing along with a reduction in fertility and irrigated land dropping out of agricultural rotation. This danger will increase in the future due to a lack of fresh water for washing out the salts. That is why redistribution of the country's water resources and diversion of part of the flow of Siberian rivers to Central Asia are necessary and indispensable conditions for successful accomplishment of the tasks involved in developing the national economic sectors targeted for long-term economic and social progress.

In the resolutions of the 25th and 26th CPSU Congresses, there was indication of the need to perform scientific research and planning studies on the diversion of part of the flow of Siberian rivers to our region. Guided by these resolutions, the Central Committee of the Uzbekistan Communist Party and the republic's government are taking the required steps to accelerate solution of the pressing problem. As we all know, on the instructions of the USSR Academy of Sciences and USSR GKNT

[State Committee on Science and Technology], more than 120 scientific research and development organizations in the country have been doing these studies for about 10 years now. Soyuzgiprovdokhoz [All-Union State Planning, Surveying and Scientific Research Institute of Water Management Construction] of the USSR Ministry of Reclamation and Water Management had drawn up a technical and economic substantiation (TEO) for the diversion (the first phase) and submitted it for review to the State Expert Commission (GEK) of USSR Gosplan as early as 1 July 1980. We hope that the commission will finish its work in the near future and come to a decision on the TEO so that a technical plan can be worked out.

Of course, until the actual delivery of the Siberian water it will be necessary to make maximum use of all domestic resources so as to utilize the water resources most efficiently. The main directions have already been determined and a series of organizational, economic and technical production measures have been put into practice for the most complete, efficient and economical use of available local water resources. In accordance with resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the 20th Uzbekistan Communist Party Congress on 11th Five-Year Plan projects, large-scale studies are planned on upgrading the irrigation systems of Uzbekistan. But comprehensive, in-depth scientific analysis shows that the strain on the region's water supply and the growing shortage of water resources cannot be completely offset using domestic reserves. For this reason, work on constructing the diversion canals and upgrading irrigation systems must be done simultaneously. The validity of this basic position was completely confirmed at the All-Union Coordination Conference of the Scientific and Technical Commission of USSR GKNT and the Ministry of Reclamation and Water Management on territorial redistribution of water resources which took place in Tashkent in October 1981.

In view of the growing shortage of water resources, there will be a smaller increase in irrigated land (based on available resources) with all the concomitant consequences by as early as the 12th Five-Year Plan. Add to this that the population of Central Asia is growing rapidly, and therefore also the need for food crops, and it becomes obvious what difficulties may arise if the Siberian water is not delivered soon enough.

The calculations of our scientists and specialists indicate that capital investments for constructing the Siberia to Central Asia canal and for bringing new irrigated tracts under cultivation would be repaid in about 12 years, i.e., in standard periods. In the long-term future in Uzbekistan alone the irrigation and development of millions of hectares of presently barren land due to the Siberian water may give the nation an immense additional amount of cotton, especially fine-fibered, grain, corn and rice, vegetables, fruit, grapes and livestock thereby considerably increasing the republic's contribution to the wealth of the whole Union.

Diverting part of the flow of Siberian rivers to our region will entail both economic and social changes. The level not only of agricultural but also of industrial production will be raised. And, consequently, the living standard of the Soviet people will be raised.

REGIONAL

BRIEFS

RUSSIAN TEXTBOOK FOR CHECHEN-INGUSH--A colorful primer--a textbook of the Russian language for the preparatory classes of Chechen and Ingush schools--has been published by the Republic Publishing House. The author of the primer is the candidate in pedagogical sciences and university docent G. Bermus. After the winter vacation the pupils in the elementary classes of the mountain district will begin to study from a new textbook. [Text] [Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jan 82 p 6] 2959

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